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TRANSIENT MEN IN EDMONTON:

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

BY



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A THESIS

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The undersigned certify that they have read and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for acceptance a thesis entitled "Transient Men in Edmonton: A Descriptive Study" submitted by Alfred J. Riediger in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Education.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to obtain a wide range of descriptive information concerning the transient men in Edmonton. Interviews, based on a nine page questionnaire, were conducted with 100 transient men at the Edmonton Day Centre in March, 1970. The following topics were included in the questionnaire: personal information, health, finance, employment, education, legal involvement, mobility, social involvement, goals and values.

The data are presented in tables showing findings for the total group as well as for six distinct age categories. The findings are summarized under topical headings as well as under age groupings. Several conclusions are drawn from these findings and recommendations are made concerning the needs of the men.

The men in this study were found to be representative of the major ethnic and religious groups in our society. However, they revealed a high degree of alcoholism and other health problems accompanied by inadequate health care. They had little or no money and depended heavily on government or charity to provide food, clothing and shelter. They had a low rate of employment and had worked mostly at seasonal or temporary jobs. The general educational level was quite low and few appear to have access to upgrading programs. A high percentage of the men had a criminal record but only a small group appeared to be hard core criminals. The men were

highly mobile but most of the movement was within the city of Edmonton. Socially, the men were alienated and had few contacts with social institutions or meaningful interpersonal relationships. The men were not happy with their present way of life. Many expressed a desire for social and financial stability, i.e. steady employment, home, family, etc.

However, the men appear to be trapped in their present way of life by their numerous personal problems, their inability to use effectively the resources presently available in the community and their inability to make realistic plans and to initiate action toward attaining their expressed goals.

The recommendations based on this study reflect the conviction that society must take responsibility for initiating comprehensive rehabilitation programs. However, the dignity and self determination of the transient men must be ensured if such programs are to succeed.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
I	INTRODUCTION.....	1
	The Ongoing Problem.....	1
	Need for Effective Solutions.....	4
	Purpose of the Study.....	7
II	SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE.....	8
	Canadian Studies.....	8
	Winnipeg Study.....	9
	British Columbia Studies.....	11
	Toronto Study.....	12
	United States Studies.....	18
	Chicago.....	18
	West Madison Study.....	20
	Other Studies.....	21
	Edmonton Research and Information.....	23
	Social Planning Council.....	27
	Department of Social Development...	31
	Salvation Army.....	34
	Human Resources Research and Development.....	34
	City of Edmonton Social Service Department.....	35
	Milligan Thesis.....	37
	Division of Alcoholism.....	38

CHAPTER		PAGE
	Summary.....	38
III	METHODS AND PROCEDURES.....	40
	Sample.....	40
	Data Collection.....	42
	Definitions.....	43
	Treatment of Data.....	44
IV	PERSONAL INFORMATION.....	46
	Age.....	46
	Accommodation.....	47
	Racial Origin and Citizenship.....	47
	Religion.....	50
	Summary.....	54
V	HEALTH.....	55
	Health Problems.....	55
	Health Care.....	62
	Summary.....	71
VI	FINANCE.....	72
	Present Financial Status.....	72
	Income.....	75
	Expenditures.....	79
	Material Needs and Assets.....	83
	Summary.....	86
VII	EMPLOYMENT.....	87
	Factors Affecting Present Potential for Employment.....	87

CHAPTER

PAGE

	Employment History and Attitudes.....	92
	Summary.....	109
VIII	EDUCATION.....	110
	Educational Background.....	110
	Desire for Further Education.....	116
	Summary.....	118
IX	LEGAL.....	119
	Criminal Convictions.....	119
	Legal Representation.....	123
	Summary.....	123
X	MOBILITY.....	125
	Present Pattern of Residence.....	125
	Previous Location of Residence.....	132
	Plans and Attitudes Concerning Mobility.....	142
	Present Pattern of Mobility.....	145
	History of Service in the Armed Forces.....	148
	Summary.....	150
XI	SOCIAL.....	151
	Family Relationships.....	151
	Social Relationships.....	157
	Summary.....	163
XII	GOALS.....	165
	Dissatisfaction with Present Way of Life.....	165

CHAPTER

PAGE

	Stated Goals and the Need for Help	
	in Attaining Them.....	170
	Personal Interests of the Men.....	175
	Future Plans of the Men.....	177
	Reaction to the Questionnaire.....	182
	Summary.....	184
XIII	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS..	185
	SUMMARY.....	185
	Findings Arranged by Topics.....	185
	Personal Information.....	185
	Health.....	185
	Finance.....	186
	Employment.....	187
	Education.....	188
	Legal.....	188
	Mobility.....	189
	Social.....	190
	Goals.....	191
	Discussion by Age Group.....	191
	Under 20.....	192
	20 - 29.....	192
	30 - 39.....	193
	40 - 49.....	194
	50 - 59.....	195
	60 and Over.....	195
	Characteristics of Increasing Age....	196

CHAPTER

PAGE

CONCLUSIONS.....	196
Extent of the Problem.....	196
Need for Further Research.....	197
Nature of Transient Men's Problems....	198
Desire and Need for Help.....	198
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	199
Basic Principles.....	200
Assessment and Referral Centre.....	201
Coordination of Agencies.....	202
Specific Programs.....	203
Health.....	203
Alcoholism.....	204
Employment.....	204
Social Needs.....	205
Legal.....	206
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	208
APPENDIX A.....	213
APPENDIX B.....	223

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
1	AGE.....	46
2	LOCATION OF RESIDENCE.....	48
3	RACIAL ORIGIN.....	49
4	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.....	50
5	CHURCH AFFILIATION.....	51
6	FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE.....	52
7	IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION.....	53
8	GENERAL LEVEL OF HEALTH.....	55
9	NUMBER OF MEN CLAIMING DISABILITIES.....	56
10	NATURE OF DISABILITIES LISTED (Expressed in per cent of men listing each disability.....	57
11	NUMBER OF MEN HAVING TROUBLE WITH SPECIFIC ORGANS.....	59
12	NUMBER OF MEN PRESENTLY IN NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION.....	60
13	CONDITIONS FOR WHICH MEDICAL ATTENTION IS REQUIRED.....	61
14	NUMBER OF MEN PRESENTLY TAKING MEDICATION.....	63
15	CONDITIONS FOR WHICH MEDICATION IS BEING TAKEN.....	64

TABLE		PAGE
16	LENGTH OF TIME SINCE LAST SEEN BY DOCTOR, DENTIST AND EYE SPECIALIST.....	66
17	NUMBER OF HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS IN PAST FIVE YEARS.....	68
18	REASONS FOR ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL.....	70
19	AMOUNT OF MONEY OWNED AT PRESENT.....	73
20	SOURCE OF MONEY POSSESSED AT PRESENT.....	74
21	AMOUNT OF MONEY OWED.....	75
22	AMOUNT EARNED IN PAST TWELVE MONTHS.....	76
23	AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS.....	77
24	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WITH A REGULAR INCOME AT PRESENT.....	78
25	AVERAGE MONTHLY AMOUNT OF PRESENT REGULAR INCOME.....	78
26	SOURCE OF PRESENT INCOME.....	79
27	AVERAGE MONTHLY SPENDING.....	80
28	PERCENTAGE OF MEN LISTING ZERO EXPENSE...	82
29	PERCENTAGE OF MEN LACKING SOME NECESSITY OF LIFE.....	83
30	NATURE OF NECESSITIES LACKED.....	84
31	PROPERTY OWNED BY THE MEN.....	85
32	NUMBER OF MEN PRESENTLY LOOKING FOR WORK.....	88
33	NUMBER OF MEN APPLYING TO VARIOUS PLACES FOR JOBS.....	89

TABLE		PAGE
34	LEVEL OF CAPABILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT.....	91
35	NUMBER OF MEN WITH SPECIAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING.....	92
36	TYPES OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING LISTED (each item represents one person unless otherwise stated).....	93
37	TYPES OF PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE.....	94
38	RATE OF EMPLOYMENT.....	97
39	PERCENTAGE OF MEN LISTING NO PERIODS OF REGULAR EMPLOYMENT DURING 1969.....	101
40	AVERAGE NUMBER AND DURATION OF REGULAR JOBS HELD IN 1969.....	101
41	TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED.....	102
42	MOST RECENT TYPE OF REGULAR EMPLOYMENT...	104
43	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO PREFER WORK IN WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED.....	106
44	PERCENTAGE OF MEN MOST RECENTLY EMPLOYED IN PREFERRED JOB.....	106
45	REASON FOR LEAVING LAST JOB.....	107
46	LAST GRADE COMPLETED IN SCHOOL.....	111
47	AGE AT LEAVING SCHOOL.....	113
48	WHERE EDUCATION WAS COMPLETED.....	114
49	REASONS FOR LEAVING SCHOOL.....	115
50	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO WANT MORE EDUCATION.....	116

TABLE		PAGE
51	TYPE OF FURTHER EDUCATION DESIRED.....	117
52	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF AN OFFENCE.....	120
53	NATURE OF THE CHARGE ON WHICH THE MEN HAVE BEEN CONVICTED.....	121
54	AMOUNT OF TIME SERVED IN PRISON.....	122
55	AVERAGE NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS PER INDIVIDUAL.....	123
56	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO WERE REPRESENTED BY A LAWYER.....	124
57	AVERAGE LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN EDMONTON..	125
58	AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME SINCE LAST RETURN TO EDMONTON.....	126
59	PLACES FROM WHICH THE MEN CAME.....	128
60	TIME SPENT IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS IN EDMONTON AND IN ALBERTA.....	130
61	TIME SPENT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS IN EDMONTON AND IN ALBERTA.....	131
62	REASONS FOR COMING TO EDMONTON.....	133
63	PERCENTAGE OF MEN CLAIMING A PERMANENT HOME.....	134
64	LOCATION AND EXPLANATION OF PERMANENT HOMES CLAIMED.....	135
65	LOCATION OF LAST OR PRESENT PERMANENT HOME.....	137

TABLE		PAGE
66	LOCATION OF LONGEST SINGLE PERIOD OF RESIDENCE.....	138
67	PLACE OF BIRTH.....	140
68	TYPE OF LOCATION IN WHICH THE MEN WERE RAISED.....	141
69	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE TRANSIENT.....	141
70	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO PLAN TO SETTLE DOWN SOME DAY.....	143
71	WHEN THE MEN PLAN TO SETTLE DOWN.....	144
72	WHERE THE MEN PLAN TO SETTLE DOWN.....	145
73	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PLACES LIVED IN PAST TWELVE MONTHS.....	146
74	LENGTH OF STAY IN VARIOUS PLACES DURING PAST TWELVE MONTHS.....	147
75	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES.....	149
76	TIME OF SERVICE IN ARMED FORCES.....	149
77	MARITAL STATUS.....	152
78	NUMBER OF MEN WHO HAVE CHILDREN.....	153
79	WHO IS LOOKING AFTER THE CHILDREN.....	154
80	PRESENT RESIDENCE OF THE CHILDREN.....	155
81	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO KNOW OF OTHER LIVING RELATIONS.....	156
82	FREQUENCY OF CONTACT WITH RELATIVES.....	157

TABLE		PAGE
83	PERCENTAGE OF MEN CLAIMING MEMBERSHIP IN VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.....	158
84	SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONS LISTED.....	159
85	NUMBER OF FRIENDS CLAIMED BY THE MEN (Includes Verbal Responses only).....	160
86	AVERAGE NUMBER OF FRIENDS CLAIMED BY THE MEN (Includes Numerical Responses only).....	161
87	MEDIAN NUMBER OF FRIENDS CLAIMED BY THE MEN.....	162
88	FREQUENCY OF THE MEN'S FEELINGS OF LONELINESS.....	164
89	EXTENT TO WHICH THE MEN LIKE THEIR PRESENT WAY OF LIFE.....	166
90	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO PLAN TO GET A STEADY JOB.....	166
91	WHERE THE MEN PLAN TO WORK.....	168
92	WHEN THE MEN PLAN TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT...	169
93	NUMBER OF MEN WHO WANT A HOME OF THEIR OWN.....	170
94	THE MEN'S MOST IMPORTANT GOALS IN LIFE...	171
95	PERCENTAGE OF MEN ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY NEED HELP IN REACHING THESE GOALS.....	174
96	TYPE OF HELP NEEDED.....	175

TABLE		PAGE
97	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO HAVE A HOBBY.....	176
98	TYPES OF HOBBIES LISTED.....	177
99	WHAT THE MEN ENJOY DOING MOST.....	178
100	PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO PLAN TO STAY IN EDMONTON.....	179
101	EXPECTED TIME OF DEPARTURE FOR THOSE WHO PLAN TO LEAVE EDMONTON.....	180
102	FACTORS ON WHICH THE PLANS TO STAY OR LEAVE DEPEND.....	181
103	DEGREE OF PRECISENESS OF FUTURE PLANS....	182
104	COMMENTS ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE.....	183

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
1	RATE OF EMPLOYMENT DURING 1969.....	98

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The transient man is one of North American Society's most confirmed dropouts. He does not appear in any comprehensive or definable sense in the statistics and the data which society commonly uses to describe or analyse its various segments. As a result society knows little about him and has little to do with him. However, this seemingly amorphous, undefinable, mobile person constitutes a definite, highly visible, permanent social problem in the skid row area of every major city. Consequently, society appears to have stereotyped the transient man as a lazy, drunken "bum" who is constantly on the move. The tragedy of this attitude lies in the fact that it perpetuates the problem by implying that the transient man does not want or deserve help and therefore cannot be helped to change his way of life.

The Ongoing Problem

The transient population on skid row in Edmonton, as elsewhere, seems to be typified by its apparent poverty, mobility, alcoholism, unemployment and other related characteristics. The inadequacy of the transient man to meet his own needs and to be self-sufficient is reflected in the proliferation of services which have sprung up to meet these needs. The Provincial Single Men's Hostel is a central agency in this field providing accommodation and

meals to single transient men. Two rooming houses (Abner House and Colona Rooms) provide accommodation to men referred from the Hostel. The Salvation Army Hostel provides accommodation, meals, and clothing, and a limited rehabilitation program. The Marion Centre, a Catholic charity, offers meals, clothes, daytime recreation facilities, and an employment service through its sponsorship of the Co-op Club. The Edmonton Day Centre provides daytime shelter and recreation as well as emergency nighttime shelter primarily for the alcoholics. Medical care is provided in a clinic at the Day Centre by the Student Health Involvement Project. Project Recovery is another agency in the skid row area which provides medical and rehabilitative services to the alcoholic and the drug abuser. The Division of Alcoholism provides an ongoing counselling program for the skid row alcoholic. Bissel Community Centre provides some counselling services to transient men as a part of its total program directed toward the community at large.

Other agencies providing some specialized service to transient men include The Boyle Street Project, Native Friendship Centre, John Howard Society, Future Society and Humans on Welfare. Many others provide a more peripheral service. The importance of Canada Manpower, local employment agencies, private rooming houses, hotel and liquor outlets should not be overlooked in regard to their attempts to meet various needs of the transient man. Finally, it must be recognized that the local police department and judicial

structure have adopted special procedures and services to cope with the problems presented by the transient man.

It is obvious that most of the services being provided to these men have been instituted as a reaction to apparent needs. The fact that the problems of the transient men appear to continue and multiply in spite of these agencies and special services emphasizes that they are not providing a viable rehabilitative program to the transient man. Indeed, few agencies claim significant success in rehabilitation. The services presently being provided seem, in fact, to succeed only in maintaining the men in their present cycle of bare existence rather than in alleviating their problems.

Milligan, in a study of social agency programs in Edmonton, conducted during the spring and summer of 1970, noted that the services and programs of most of the agencies and institutions on skid row were directed toward meeting basic maintenance needs. The agencies most directly involved in the study included the Salvation Army, Provincial Single Men's Hostel, Marion Centre, Edmonton Day Centre, Bissel Community Centre, Hope Mission, as well as Canada Manpower and several temporary employment agencies. Milligan pointed out that all of the five or six major institutions, except for the Single Men's Hostel, claimed rehabilitation as a function of the agency but only the Salvation Army had an active rehabilitation program. Even this program appeared to be of very limited value.

In regard to employment services, no agency appeared to be involved at all in upgrading and retraining transients for employment. Milligan notes that..."The agencies presently concerned with employment were in most instances part of a cycle which inevitably brought the men who took a job right back to skid row (Milligan, 1971, p. 88)."

This apparent impasse appears largely due to the lack of accurate and comprehensive information about the men. This problem was discussed with a number of the major agencies dealing with transient men. None of them were able to point to any empirical data as a basis for their programs.

Need for Effective Solutions

Dissatisfaction with present services was evidenced by the comments of the transient men as well as by their general attitude of hopelessness and by the expressed discontent of government agencies with the results of their present program. The Social Development Department's Request for Proposals issued during the summer of 1970 directed toward private operation of the Hostel is a case in point. The recognition of a need for more integrated and effective delivery of social services was further emphasized by Peter Barga, Chief City of Edmonton Commissioner, who advocated an integrated community service delivery system for all areas in Edmonton (Barga, personal communication, 1970).

Bargen's wide ranging proposal suggests an added value of research into the conditions affecting severely disadvantaged groups such as the transient man. Such studies can help us to learn how to meet the needs of the rest of society before they reach an equally desperate situation. The underlying hypothesis is that if the needs and rights of the most disadvantaged are understood and dealt with, the rest of the society will benefit as well since the needs and rights of all citizens in a democratic society should be considered equally (See also Canadian Welfare Council, 1961, p. 10).

The obvious problems of unemployment, poverty and alcoholism must be met by programs that are relevant to the situation within which the transient men find themselves. Society must gain further insight into the attitudes, abilities and requirements of these men in order to initiate plans of action which will accomplish goals which are mutually beneficial to the transient man and his community. Solutions which have proven effective with other problem groups in society cannot necessarily be applied effectively to the transient man. However, a number of studies have shown that the tendency to disregard this group of individuals as beyond the scope of effective rehabilitation is fallacious and certainly provides no solution.

The most significant finding of the Chicago Study was that the elimination of skid row was feasible as well as desirable. The report states that effective rehabilitation

programs can be instituted which would eliminate the need for skid row areas (The Homeless Man on Skid Row, 1961, Preface, p. 1).

This report also notes that the City of Chicago was spending \$4,719,948 per year in skid row areas for services additional to those required in "normal" areas. However, only three per cent of this total was directed toward any sort of rehabilitative program (The Homeless Man on Skid Row, 1961, p. 48).

The O'Byrne report of Alberta notes that "Statistics bear out the economic advantages which result from being able to employ such men as these (transients) (O'Byrne, 1970, p. 9 quoted from the Mayor's Committee for Human Resources Development, Human Resources Development Program Summary, Detroit, June, 1967)."

The report further states that compared to the enormous cost of maintaining an alcoholic minority in the population, the cost of maintaining recovery houses is negligible (O'Byrne, 1970, p. 13, 'quoted from R. Martinson, The California Recovery House: A Sanctuary for Alcoholics, Mental Hygiene, 48: 432-438, 1964).

Kupfer (1970) provides a valuable analysis of the costs and benefits of an intensive rehabilitative program directed toward chronically unemployed men in Edmonton (pp. 71 - 84). He concludes that substantial, long term savings of public money would result from such a program.

Although many studies suggest that effective

rehabilitation is possible and economically feasible, they do not offer any simple solutions. Rather they stress the importance of adequate information about the specific situation in question and bold, progressive planning of a comprehensive nature.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to provide a general description of transient men in Edmonton. A comprehensive, definitive study which would be required for the effective implementation of a total plan of action toward meeting the needs of these men is beyond the scope of this study. However, it is hoped that this study provides a basis for further research in depth. Accordingly, the following general areas were included in this research project: personal information, health, finance, employment, education, mobility, criminal record, social involvement, personal goals and values.

Before going on to a consideration of the methods and procedures employed in this study, the literature pertaining to transient men will be surveyed in the following chapter.

CHAPTER II

SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE

It is readily apparent that the transient man has been neglected in research. Not only are relevant studies few in number, but many of these are of questionable validity and usefulness due to weaknesses in design or in analysis of the data. Because of the lack of formal studies, this survey will include a wide range of literature pertinent to the problem of transiency. This chapter is divided into sections dealing with Canadian Studies, United States Studies and information regarding transient men in Edmonton. The latter section will be emphasized as it is most directly relevant to the topic of this study.

Canadian Studies

The Canadian Welfare Council first became concerned with the problem of the homeless transient during the 1930's. In the spring of 1938 a special national committee was established on the care of nonresidents and migrants. In 1939 a national conference was convened and a thirteen point program was drafted for consideration of the Federal and Provincial governments. However, the second world war brought a period of high employment and the problem faded into the background. A resurgence of interest occurred in 1959 when the Public Welfare Division agreed to sponsor a limited study

of the problem. Subsequently a national committee was appointed which prepared a report based on a number of current studies which had been carried out in Winnipeg, British Columbia and Toronto (Canadian Welfare Council, 1961). Also included in the report was information from the Edmonton Community Council, the Salvation Army, the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Federal Department of Labor.

Winnipeg Study. The Winnipeg Public Welfare Department developed a comprehensive questionnaire which was used as the basis for a study conducted at the Salvation Army Hostel (Transient Single Men, 1960). A series of interviews was conducted by a staff member of the department with 100 single - homeless men who had been referred by the department to the Winnipeg Salvation Army Hostel. The data obtained from these interviews was compiled in statistical form but no analysis of the data was carried out. Therefore, only a brief summary of the findings will be given here.

The heaviest concentration of men by age categories lay in the 36 - 44 year age bracket. Forty-seven per cent of the men saw their main problem as unemployment. The second most frequent main problem was alcoholism (nine per cent). Only six per cent listed "no serious problems".

Health problems were also found frequently among the men. Thirty-nine per cent of the men stated that they needed glasses, forty-eight per cent needed dental care and thirteen per cent indicated a need for medical care. Seventy-five

per cent of the men had been hospitalized in the past several years. The most common reason (twenty-two per cent) was because of broken bones.

Forty-nine per cent of the men were single, six per cent were married, sixteen per cent were living common law and twenty-nine per cent had experienced dissolution of marriage or common law relationships through separation, divorce or death of spouse.

The men had a median educational level of grade eight. Only twelve per cent were educated in Manitoba; thirty-five per cent were educated in Ontario.

Questions concerning the men's employment and financial status were especially interesting. The largest percentage of men (forty-one per cent) listed their occupation as "labourer". Seventy-four per cent of the men stated that they were fit for heavy work. Only fifty-three per cent of the men had obtained unemployment insurance benefits at any time. Thirty per cent stated that they had received no unearned income at any time. Forty-two per cent had paid income tax in 1958. Upon arrival in Winnipeg, fifty per cent had less than five dollars.

The study also revealed that the men had visited an average of at least two other provinces in the previous year. However, sixty-six per cent of the men had most recently come to Winnipeg from some other place in Manitoba or from Ontario.

Additional findings revealed that fifty-eight per cent of the men had a record of military service. Forty-two per

cent of the sample had served some time in jail.

British Columbia Studies. The British Columbia Department of Social Welfare conducted a study on homeless transients in 1960 (Snyder, 1960). The Winnipeg questionnaire was used as a basis for interviews with 55 single, homeless men. These interviews were conducted in a number of regional offices and municipal welfare departments.

This study revealed that approximately eighty per cent of the sample had at least one year's residence in the province. Other findings were mainly consistent with the Winnipeg Study.

Ronald Cameron, in a 1964 study, focused on the characteristics and needs of the Skid Row alcoholic. This study emphasized the view that these men have withdrawn from society through the use of alcohol. The typical Skid Row alcoholic in Vancouver was described as about 45 years of age and of Irish, Scottish or Native Indian descent. He was a long-time resident of Canada and had less than grade eight education. He was an unskilled laborer who obtained only temporary employment. He was single or separated and had no close contact with relatives. He had a record of at least seven arrests for drunkenness per year for the past six or seven years at least. His personality was described as: self-centered, poor perception of reality, mistrust of others and a deep sense of worthlessness.

Toronto Study. The most comprehensive study on transients in Canada was conducted by a group of ten students at the University of Toronto. The Winnipeg questionnaire was used as the basis of a more comprehensive questionnaire. Two hundred men were interviewed at two of the larger hostels operated by voluntary organizations, at the Toronto Public Welfare Department Hostel and at the Don Jail. A number of these were subsequently published with special emphasis on various aspects of the data collected. Robinson commented that:

In general, it may be said that most transients look older than their years; are in poorer health than their contemporaries; have less than the minimum requirements to meet their needs and apparently have a shorter life expectancy. They find difficulty in the area of personal relationships; they feel inadequate as individuals in the community; They lack the necessary motivation to change their mode of life; are ill-equipped mentally and physically to help themselves; and suffer from weak egos. They express a wish to be employed, independent and financially secure and to lead "normal", useful lives, but find it virtually impossible to cope with the complexities of society and the demands made upon them. In short, many of them require help in order to help themselves and without such help they are doomed to a life of dissipation, despondency and despair (Robinson, 1962, p. 131).

Robinson found a strongly negative attitude toward transient men on the part of the policemen, crown attorneys, and magistrates. He noted that "The overall attitude towards transients was one of unsuccessfully veiled prejudice (Robinson, 1962, p. 162)." He stated further than "Magistrates

were uninhibited in branding transients as nothing but a bunch of bums...too ignorant, degraded, alcoholic and lacking in self-respect to do anything about themselves (Robinson, 1962, pp. 167, 168)." Robinson concluded that "Indifference, some pity, hope for the few who 'just happened to hit the hard times' but chiefly hopeless apathy were characteristic attitudes (Robinson, 1962, p. 168)."

Robinson noted that the line between the deserving and the un-deserving poor was drawn in the feeling that the individual must "prove himself before he will be helped". He went on to suggest that this attitude contributed to the apparently general frustration among those who had any significant contact with the transient men. They appeared, consequently, to be unable to define the problem or to recommend adequate solutions.

In a study based on the same data, Nakatani (1960), emphasized the health condition of the transient men. A high incidence of health problems was found accompanied by an apparent lack of accessibility to health care. A great need for dental and optical care was found. In addition it was suggested that these men may be accident prone.

Nakatani also explored the men's ability to plan for the future. She found that forty-four per cent had no plans for the future and only eight per cent had plans which were at least fairly definite. She concluded that "...this group of men seem to be, on the whole, aimlessly going about from day to day....Their energy seems to be taken up with

immediate, every day goals rather than planning for long term goals (Nakatani, 1960, p. 51)."

In another related study Toumishey delineated several ways of viewing transience. He noted that the literature on this topic revealed a general acceptance of the opinion that the homeless transient is the product of economic conditions and the resulting changes in the demand for casual labour. Toumishey further hypothesised that "homeless transiency is the product of certain psychological and sociological influences on the men themselves. Behind the habits and attitudes which seem to dominate the personality of the transient, often lies some unmet crisis with emotional, educational and sociological significance (Toumishey, 1963, p. 2)."

However, Toumishey argued further that the services set up to help these men served to facilitate and perpetuate their patterns of transience. He suggested that the overly simplified view of transience in the past has been largely responsible for the lack of effective solutions to the problem. He emphasised that: "The type of men which make up the group of homeless transients is so heterogenous that it is very difficult to designate characteristics which apply to these men alone and make them different from other groups (Toumishey, 1963, p. 4)."

This point of view reflects the earlier conclusions of G. H. Dunn

This group is made up of individuals
who have widely differing backgrounds

and experiences; the college educated and the uneducated, the youth, the aged inefficient, the seasoned workers in transit and the hoboes, the job seekers and the work-shy, and the employable and the unemployable (Dunn, 1949, p. 88).

The report on Homeless Transient Men, published by the Canadian Welfare Council in May, 1961, was based largely on the above studies which were conducted at the Winnipeg Public Welfare Department, the Department of Social Welfare of the Province of British Columbia, and the University of Toronto School of Social Work. Some of the more salient general findings and conclusions are summarized below.

Although the transient men are highly mobile, their movement appears to be largely within a given province. This is particularly true of the Toronto and British Columbia studies as opposed to the Winnipeg study. The report suggests that this may be due to the geographic location of Winnipeg at the crossroad of Canada. It is noteworthy that the studies showing the least inter-province mobility are also the more prosperous provinces and consequently provide better employment opportunities. The implications for Alberta as a "have" province seem clear. The report notes that the problem of the homeless, unattached man is much broader and deeper than one of transiency alone.

Lack of education does not appear to distinguish the transient man from the average Canadian male worker.

A majority of the men have remained single. Of those who were married, most have been separated or divorced. This

appears to be due to inability to form or maintain close interpersonal relationships.

A high percentage of the men have a record of repeated convictions for drunkenness and petty crimes. The report noted that this process of repeatedly convicting and punishing these chronic offenders is an essentially negative action. It is more costly than positive welfare or rehabilitative services and serves to compound the problems of these men.

The largest group of men in each study was composed of unskilled laborers. Most of the men were able to work but were not able to find jobs. One of the major characteristics of the men was their inability to plan ahead and their lack of insight into the nature of their present difficulties. Unemployment was most frequently identified as a problem by the men. Other problems in order of frequency were: alcohol, psychological problems, interpersonal relationship problems, health problems, lack of money, and old age.

Sixty-five per cent of the men in the Toronto study stated that they had experienced unsatisfactory relationships with their parents. All of the men appeared characterized by over-dependence.

The Canadian Welfare Council reported details on a number of underlying aspects of the transient problem. Historically, public assistance has been the local government's responsibility. Therefore, the transient man is viewed as a burden for which some other locality should be responsible. As a result private charity continues to play a large part in

providing service to transients. Also, statistics and other data detailing the extent and nature of the transient problem are unavailable and will continue to be so until more extensive research facilities are made available.

General economic conditions have a major effect on the transient man because he tends to be the "last hired and first fired". The seasonal nature of much of Canada's industry also creates a demand for a fluctuating and mobile labor force. In addition, casual and part-time workers are least affected by technological changes which are increasing the demand for more skilled workers in most industry.

The report goes on to note that these men are less trainable than the average worker. Therefore, informal, on-the-job training would be most suitable for them.

The widely held belief that most transient men like their way of life was proven to be unfounded. Also, very few of the men were true non-conformists. Rather, they were would-be conformists who had failed to achieve their goals. However, this desire for change is not sufficient to effect change. The report concludes that the transient men require help in order to enable them to initiate action themselves toward their rehabilitation. To achieve this would demand that financial assistance and services be centered on rehabilitative programs. The report points out that few of the present agencies serving transient men are offering this kind of service.

United States Studies

Chicago. In September, 1961, the Tenants Relocation Bureau published a report entitled, The Homeless Man on Skid Row. This is one of the most comprehensive studies of this subject to date. This report suggests that, historically, skid row areas were created by a demand for an unskilled and casual labor pool. This demand is now decreasing and the skid row population is shrinking. Rather than attracting men looking for low skill jobs, skid row is attracting men by offering a low-scale economy which is accepting of personal and health needs.

Because of Edmonton's position as "Gateway to the North", it would seem logical to conclude that the transient men in Edmonton still constitute a milieu which in Chicago is true only in a historical sense. This gives rise to the speculation that the Chicago study may represent a fairly accurate picture of Edmonton's future transient and skid row problem when the process of industrialization and urbanization have reached the level presently experienced by Chicago.

In this study men on skid row were divided into six classes. These consisted of 1) elderly or physically disabled men, 2) semi-settled or settled working men - employed or seeking work, 3) migratory workers, 4) transient "bums" - wandering men who prefer charity to work, 5) resident "bums", 6) criminals, and 7) chronic alcoholics (The Homeless Man on Skid Row, 1961, p. 7).

Skid row is described as housing four major functions. It provides 1) the cities lowest cost of living area, 2) the labor market for unskilled and semi-skilled workers, 3) a locus of welfare activities, and 4) anonymity, tolerance and companionship.

Six hundred and fourteen men were selected randomly and interviewed with a view to describing their characteristics. The men on skid row were found to be considerably older than the general population of Chicago. Men comprise a very high percentage (96.3%) of the skid row population. 85.4% were single, separated, divorced or widowed, compared to 35.9% in the total population. The unemployment rate was 35.2% compared to 4.2% in the city's population. In 1957, median income of skid row men was less than one third of that of the national average. Difference in educational attainment did not distinguish skid row men from employed men in the unskilled occupations. However, very few of the skid row men held significantly better jobs at one time than they were able to aspire to at the time of the study.

The report points out that skid row is composed primarily of non-transient persons. Transience is not defined but it is noted that less than ten per cent had been on skid row for less than one month and fifty-five per cent had resided there for longer than one year. Ten per cent had been on skid row for ten years or more. It was also noted that forty per cent of the residents were light drinkers or non-drinkers. Finally, it should be pointed out that each of

Chicago's skid row areas had a somewhat different composition of residents as measured by a variety of characteristics.

In general skid row residents have a much higher rate of disability due to illness than in the general male population. Multiple chronic disorders are the most frequent source of disability. Approximately one half of the residents of skid row are teetotalers or men who control their drinking. These men tend to have a higher incidence of social and personal disabilities keeping them on skid row.

West Madison Study. Vanderkooi (1967) conducted a study of West Madison Skid Row residents in order to recommend a program of Urban renewal in the area. A brief summary of his findings will be given here.

The men had an average age of 47 years. Sixty-one per cent had not finished high school. The skid row community was basically Caucasian. Thirty per cent were judged to be in marginal health, and three per cent appeared mentally ill. A high percentage of the men were truthful and cooperative. Twenty-nine percent said they were full time workers while seventy-one per cent stated that they worked part time. Twenty-seven per cent claimed a disability which kept them from working. The men claimed an average monthly income of \$175. Seventy-five per cent spent \$12 or less per week on housing. Forty-four per cent were willing to share an apartment. Ninety-two per cent said they would be willing to cooperate with urban renewal people in being relocated.

Recreational activities consisted primarily of drinking, watching television and following spectator sports. Eighty-two per cent of those responding stated they spent between two and four dollars per day on food (when they have money). Most of the men wanted more extensive, more professional and honest police service rather than less police surveillance. Sixty-three per cent claimed to use day labor offices and eighty-eight per cent felt labor offices were important to the area. Seventy-eight per cent felt there should be missions in the skid row area. The most common services the men had received from missions included: food, shelter, medical help, clothing and religious services. Very few had received help through counselling, rehabilitation or employment programs. The most frequently requested types of rehabilitation programs included alcoholism treatment, forty-three per cent, job or vocational training, twenty-one per cent, decent accommodation, fourteen per cent (Vanderkooi, 1967, pp. 15 - 26).

Other Studies. In a previous study (1966), Vanderkooi had found that:

.....the men were not alienated with regard to the importance of American values and activity patterns but.....they experienced a good deal of powerlessness in accomplishing these (Vanderkooi, 1967, p.4).

Bogue emphasizes society's responsibility for the seemingly hopeless situation of the man on skid row. He states that:

Skid row exists because the working of social processes in our contemporary civilization creates certain types of circumstances for which society at large accepts minimal responsibility.....and has given up hope. Rather than create a coherent program of help and rehabilitation, society temporizes by guaranteeing the men a particular section where they may be watched over and kept under control by the police.....Skid Row is a combination of poor farm and asylum with (some) freedom of movement.....(Bogue, 1963, p. 406).

As a basis for comparison Anderson's classic study of homeless men provides a very useful historical background to the present skid row problem (Anderson, 1922). Although the proportion of migrant workers has decreased, bringing about a smaller degree of inter-city transiency, Anderson showed that West Madison in 1922 was already well established as a community offering a range of hotel, drinking, employment, mission and other facilities as well as a tolerant, varied social organization for migrant laborers and others.

All of the above studies reveal a number of fairly common characteristics of the transient or skid row resident. Therefore, it seems appropriate to conclude this section with a summary of the homeless transient man as stated by Dunham (1953). Dunham reviewed prior studies which give us the following picture of the homeless transient man as a person.

1."had stopped school in the elementary grades
2. comes from a broken home.
3. may come from an institution.
4. has no friends or relatives to whom he can turn in

time of crisis.

5. has never learned a trade.
6. has wandered around a good deal, usually looking for work,
7. is an uncompletely socialized person who exhibits a great deal of social isolation and has problems taking part in more acceptable organized groups in society (Dunham, 1953, p. 13)."

Dunham emphasised the failure of home, school, churches and community in their function as socializing agencies.

Edmonton Research and Information

Information on the transient man in Edmonton is at best incomplete and fragmentary. The Edmonton Day Centre originated the only research study dealing with personal characteristics of these men (Stewart, 1964). One hundred and thirty-seven men were interviewed and tested. Unfortunately, the report does not provide adequate information concerning sampling procedure and validity of data and adequate statistical design. However, some valuable data was obtained.

The average age of the men was 37 years. Only five per cent were married and sixty-one per cent were single. The others had been separated, divorced or widowed.

The men's average total income in the previous year was \$1,304. This low figure was partially explained by their lack of education or vocational skills. The average length

of education was 9.2 years. Fifty-eight per cent claimed unskilled or semi-skilled occupations. Only 17.5% had ever had vocational counselling, although 66.4% indicated a desire for vocational counselling.

The most frequently stated problems by the men themselves were drinking (56.2%), emotional instability (18.2%) and vocational problems (14.6%). At the time of the interview 35.8% indicated a need for medical care. Sixteen per cent had been patients in a mental hospital at some time. However, only 30.3% stated that they had received treatment of any kind for their stated problems.

Seventy-eight percent answered affirmatively the question "Do you feel you have a set of religious feelings and beliefs?" Yet 40.9% never participated in church activities and an additional 26.3% participated less than once per month.

A sub group of 75 men were given the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory and the results were plotted on the multilevel grid of Leary's Interpersonal Diagnostic Booklet. It was concluded that the men tended to be aggressive and mildly sadistic. They were described as blunt, frank, critical and unconventional. They tended to be overtly hostile and primitive. They tended to provoke resentment or fearful respect. The men did not manifest depression or anxiety and did not tend to complain of physical symptoms but tended to emphasise interpersonal problems.

The entire group was divided into several diagnostic

sub-groups:

1. sadistic (22.6%) - these men are described as primitive, unkind, sarcastic, unfriendly and hostile.
2. narcissistic (20%) - described as exhibitionistic, arrogant, boastful and exploitive.
3. aristocratic (13.3%) - dominating, pedantic, seeking respect compulsively.
4. distrustful (13.3%) - bitter, complaining rebellious.

An additional 10.5% fall into categories labeled: dependent, overly conventional, hypernormal, self-effacing and docile. In terms of psychiatric impressions, the majority of the men were classified as manic (25.3%), psychopathic (23.9%), compulsive personality (19.9%) and schizoid (15.9%).

It was concluded that 74.4% of the sample were mal-adaptive in their personality patterns. The majority of the group scored too low on ego strength to justify expectation of significant improvement.

In an "Information Booklet" (1966), Nicholson, then Executive Director of the Edmonton Day Centre, outlined the problems of transience and the Centre's approach in dealing with the problem. Nicholson noted that the conflict between Industrial and Agrarian societies produce a "normlessness" and "anomie" which results in the formation of numerous sub-cultures of which transient men form one. The men being served by the Day Centre were seen as being alienated from normal day to day activities of contemporary society. The main function of the Centre was therefore seen

as the rehabilitation of these persons into "normal societal behaviors". (quotation marks are mine) For this to be achieved, the following necessary conditions were set forth.

- a. the men must accept that there is a problem.
- b. they must identify and isolate this problem.
- c. they must accept that the problem can be solved.
- d. this solution must come from themselves.
- e. they must be impressed that society will accept them on their return to it.

Consequently, the rehabilitation program is seen as a massive re-educative process with an easy transfer from the program to the general community.

In the 1970 Annual Report of the Edmonton Day Centre, Cummings, Executive Director, emphasizes that ".....relatively little rehabilitation can take place until the necessities of life are being provided (p. 1)." The primary service presently provided by the Day Centre is day time and night time shelter. The overnight shelter is providing accommodation for an average of 50 - 60 men per night.(p. 2). The final area of service provided by the Day Centre includes a project to establish the nature and extent to which the human rights of the transient men are being assured by Federal, Provincial and Municipal legislation. Fair, 1969, President of the Day Centre, outlined the area of concern as follows:

.....the "transient man" does not appear to be eligible for Medicare. Upon examination there also appears to be some uncertainty about his entitlement (if any) to other kinds of service.

Social Planning Council. "The Defectors (1969) is a report presented to the Edmonton Social Planning Council by John McNamara. McNamara describes himself as an "alcoholic, criminal offender, skid-row inhabitant, as a professional in accounting and marketing; - and as an amateur in several other fields including social animation." This social essay deals with transient or single, homeless men as well as other skid row sub-groups.

Pervading these groups is a profound sense of impotence.....a feeling or belief that the social order has to be taken as a whole or repudiated as a whole and thus beyond the individual to change.....and the parallel conviction that they are beyond changing themselves (p. 1).

McNamara estimated that 2,000 - 3,000 individuals constitute Edmonton's skid row population (in 1969) and that approximately 70,000 Edmontonians are living in conditions of poverty and social alienation. He emphasized the need for programs concentrating on enabling the transient man to help himself. He noted that existing programs and agencies were too limited in the scope of services they provided and often served to discourage the transient man from making greater efforts to help himself.

In its "Brief to the Human Resources Development Authority" (1968), the Edmonton Social Planning Council outlined the transient men's situation in Edmonton. This brief noted that Edmonton provided for the basic material needs of these men much better than the average city.

T. J. Garvin is quoted as saying that

Edmonton is referred to as a "Haven" for men and for one specific reason; food, shelter and clothing can be obtained relatively easily and for lengthy periods of time (p. 2).

The brief emphasizes the provision of employment opportunities.

For the human development of the single, unemployed man, no single item is more important than making real his right to work (p. 5).

The brief recommends the establishment of a classification centre at the Provincial Single Men's Hostel in order to ascertain each man's degree of employability. However, it is pointed out that such a centre would only prove valuable if it could refer men to established programs providing employment or suitable and adequate rehabilitative programs. A report by the Social Planning Council of Calgary (1966) is cited as the reference for the statement that about one fifth of the family-less men in the downtown area are physically, mentally or emotionally ill or disabled.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council brief also notes an increase in the preceding year (1967) of young (under 25) single, unemployed men in Edmonton. Separate housing is recommended for these men as well as a special emphasis on providing educational upgrading and job training programs (p.4).

The brief concludes:

If ever there is to be a just society in Canada, it will only come about if all elements of Canadian society are given the opportunity for human development.

It is clear that no such opportunity is offered to the single, unemployed man in the downtown areas of our large cities. Few groups have been subjected to more human indignities. Few groups have suffered more from the unkind generalities of the ignorant and the unfeeling....(p. 8).

The brief points out that the vast majority of the men work at least a part of the year. As an example, it is noted that the Marion Centre served more than three times as many men during periods of lowest employment than during periods of highest employment. A large percentage of the men served during periods of high employment were noted to be pensioners or "problem men".

In an appendix to the Social Planning Councils' brief, the Community Upgrading and Rehabilitation Society lists a number of difficulties faced by the transient men. A rehabilitation program was proposed, centered on the theme of "family atmosphere and family unity". This proposal entailed the establishment of closely knit communities of six to eight men, "who will dedicate themselves to self-development and self-rehabilitation through learning to cooperate freely and willingly with the other individuals of the group and society at large (Edmonton Social Planning Council, 1968, Appendix A, p. 6)." The envisioned community would consist of a shared residence, shared involvement in economic and activity programs and intensive involvement in programs designed to meet personal needs of the members.

A second appendix contains a proposal of Barrier who has worked intensely with the transient men in Edmonton's

Boyle Street area. He stressed that "the proper motivation of the human agent is the most important and possibly the only determining factor in bringing about changes in a given sociological situation.....there is no more society on skid row than there is among passengers crowding a bus terminal.....men from various origins, backgrounds, ages, suffering from all kinds of physical and mental disorders happen to find themselves on skid row without having a clear idea of why or how they got there (Edmonton Social Planning Council, 1968, Appendix B, pp. 1, 2)."

Barrier provided the following vivid description of the transient men's dilemma:

The hope of "strike it rich" someday, somewhere, replaces the concept that human welfare and progress is a matter of proper education and training..... Skid row is synonymous with alienation frustration, fears. Skid row is a trap, a manner of concentration camp, in which freedom is limited, not by physical, coercive means but by invisible forces both within and outside the individual - lack of self-confidence, fear of personal abnormal propensions, fear of competition, society systems and order, etc.....So tenuous and hard to identify are these compulsive fears that a man on skid row feels absolutely powerless against them.....(Edmonton Social Planning Council, 1968, Appendix B, p. 3).

Barrier recommended the establishment of a classification centre as an emergency measure to begin the complex task of rehabilitation. He suggested that the centre would need to generate bold new suggestions and be willing to experiment freely in order to meet the needs of these men and to provide

effective rehabilitation.

Bell (1966), in a report to the Planning Department of the City of Edmonton, provided a description of the Boyle Street Area from the standpoint of Urban renewal planning. He quoted a description of the Urban Jungle from Gans (1962) as

.....populated largely by single men, pathological families, people in hiding from themselves or society, and individuals who provide the more disreputable of illegal but demanded, services to the rest of the community (Gans, 1962, p. 4).

However, there is a notable lack of emphasis on the single, homeless man in this report. The implication is that the single man's needs are of little significance in planning of urban renewal proposals. A booklet entitled Urban Renewal accompanies the above mentioned report. The introduction notes that,

.....the transient population.....if such a term has significance.....was not considered in the original collection of data and therefore is excluded from the material that follows.

Department of Social Development. A report by Justice Michael B. O'Byrne to the Minister of Social Development (1970) contains the most comprehensive and recent information available on the topic of single, transient men in Edmonton. Justice O'Byrne states that an average of 500 men are fed at the Single Men's Hostel each day. In addition, approximately 65 men a day are fed at the Salvation Army Hostel at the expense of the Single Men's Hostel.

In 1969, 1,330 vouchers were issued for clothing by the Hostel and transportation was provided to 353 men who were proceeding to employment. The Hostel served 304,308 meals during 1969 and provided beds for 165,862 men - nights. In more simple terms, the Hostel provided accommodation to an average of 454 men per night.

The hostel handles approximately 6,000 individuals a year. Approximately 3,000 use the hostel for the purpose intended. They are residents for a short time, find a job and are not seen again. Of the other 3,000 there are 2,000 who come and go year after year and make the hostel a semi-permanent home. Apparently there are 200-300 "hard core users" who use the hostel almost on a permanent basis. In the main, these men are unemployable because of alcohol problems, drug problems, age and ill health. Some just won't work although able to do so. The average length of stay is 42 days per year (O'Byrne, 1970, pp. 4 - 5).

The report goes on to emphasize that transience is a very obvious social problem which will become more serious unless immediate action is taken. The report concludes that the vast majority of the men can be assisted toward rehabilitation, although most of them appear powerless to help themselves. The report notes that the Alberta Government White Paper on Human Resources Development advocates "The provision of services which will foster the maximum development of each individual's potential".

The O'Byrne report recommends the provision of a classification centre in the Hostel. It notes that statistics bear out the economic advantages of instituting programs which

will raise the employment level of these men (p. 9). (See The Mayor's Committee for Human Resources Development. Human Resources Development Program Summaries, Detroit, June, 1967). The classification centre would also help to ascertain the need for medical and psychiatric care. The report notes that "....without curing the ills, rehabilitation of the man is impossible (p. 10)". A diagnostic Centre is recommended as a part of a comprehensive treatment system for alcoholics on skid row. The proposed facility would consist of reception, diagnostic and detoxification service and referral to rehabilitation services (pp. 12, 13).

The Annual Report of the Department of Public Welfare (1968 - 1969), notes that the need for accommodation in the Single Men's Hostels in Edmonton and Calgary is growing. The report states that the Hostels

....meet the needs of single men with no permanent address, by providing meals, sleeping accommodation, medical attention and clothing, when necessary, and counselling (p. 20).

The social workers in the two hostels, through contact with Canada Manpower and other employment agencies placed 357 men in employment. One hundred and seventy-seven others were referred to jobs and subsequently left the hostel. In addition to the above mentioned hostels, the Department of Public Welfare operates the Gunn and Youngstown single men's homes which

....provide more permanent care for men in the unemployable category because of age and lack of skills or for other reasons (p. 20).

The Annual Report provides average monthly figures for the number of men cared for at the Edmonton Hostel from April, 1968, to March, 1969. These figures show a variation in number from a high of 663 in April to a low of 221 in September. A sharp drop in the number of men cared for occurs in August and September. The greatest increases in numbers occur during April and from November through January.

Salvation Army. The Salvation Army, in its Annual Report (1968), indicates that an average of 169 men per night were given sleeping accommodation during the year and a total of 101,786 meals were served. However, it should be noted that an undetermined proportion of these men were referred by the Single Men's Hostel.

Human Resources Research and Development. Kupfer, (1967), in a study on poverty in Edmonton, included results from a survey of a number of Boyle Street area residents. Sixty-five per cent of the respondents indicated an annual family income of less than \$3,000. Fifty-two per cent of the respondents stated that they lived alone. Eighty-nine per cent of those reporting an annual income of under \$1,000 lived alone.

The study did not apply directly to transient men as the data was obtained from interviews in homes in the area. However, it is interesting to note that thirty-six per cent of the respondents had lived at their present place of residence for six years or more while twenty-three per cent indicated less than one year of residence (pp. 166 - 167). These

results would suggest that the single transient man represents a somewhat arbitrary subdivision of a much larger community with some very similar problems and characteristics.

City of Edmonton Social Service Department. The City of Edmonton Social Service Department has made a significant contribution toward the understanding of the chronically unemployed. The Resource Mobilization for Employment, Special Project, Interim Report (1969), reviews the progress of the program. Although the project dealt entirely with married men under 45 years of age, with a history of dependence on social assistance, the findings of the project have obvious implications for unemployed, single, homeless men as well. The working philosophy of the project was largely based on Glasser's Reality therapy. A complete review of this research study will not be attempted here. However, two practical findings are of immediate interest. First, it was found that success in job placement was much greater when this was done after a period of intensive counselling rather than immediately upon admission to the program. Thus, individual readiness for employment proved to be a significant factor in job success. Second, many of the clients were found to be highly neurotic and basically emotionally unable to stabilize themselves into an employment situation. Instead of finding these individuals to be lazy it was found that "When a person becomes clear in his thinking, he generally

wants employment....(p. 5)." Kupfer, in his Final Report on the Special Project (1970) **summarized** a number of findings especially relevant to further research in the area. He noted that positive and efficient use of social assistance funds can only occur in a rehabilitative framework which is based on a total assessment of the client's situation. The investment of more time, energy and funds can result in longer job duration on the part of the client. This initial investment seems to be both worthwhile and necessary. Raising minimum wages would help to make the clients self supporting. However, earnings should be supplemented where necessary as this helps to prevent full dependency on social assistance.

The clients were characterized by a high frequency of emotional and interpersonal as well as financial problems but most services available were limited almost entirely to financial maintenance. This emphasizes the need for a multi-service approach. Educational opportunities must be made available to clients. Use should be made of group counselling techniques to make more efficient use of counsellors' time. Assessment instruments developed by the social sciences should be used to obtain diagnostic information. Mental health resources should be explored with a view to utilizing them much more extensively. In addition, greater cooperation should be fostered between the courts and the social service agencies so that punitive and rehabilitative functions will not conflict.

Finally, more information must be obtained with regard to effects of rehabilitation programs on other segments of society, long term effects of intensive programs on the clients themselves, how to avoid increasing dependency through the use of social assistance funds and reasons for refusal of intensive services. The report also implies that better means are needed to obtain, store and exchange information regarding these clients in order to provide more adequate service (Kupfer, 1970, pp. 124 - 128).

Milligan Thesis. Milligan's study, mentioned in Chapter I, emphasizes the present lack of ongoing rehabilitative services. Milligan noted that many of the community workers involved with the transient men on skid row were simply part of the cycle in which the men were trapped. Nearly all of these workers, however, expressed the goal of preparing the men for entrance "back into the mainstream of society". Milligan noted that very few of the workers appeared to have a clear idea of what this meant in practical terms. He concluded that they were referring to a general acceptance of middle class standards.

In contrast, Milligan noted that the most successful workers were those who most readily accepted the transient man and characteristically gave him responsibility and credit for his own progress. Milligan concluded that effective rehabilitation is possible and necessary. He found that the men are not satisfied with their present life style. However, any alternative must be appealing enough to motivate

the men themselves. This suggested that the men should be viewed, not simply in terms of their problems, but in terms of their resources and potentials as well.

Division of Alcoholism. Charles, in a paper on The Treatment of the Lower Class Alcoholic stressed his conviction that these people can be treated successfully. He proposed the establishment of a combined residential and day care treatment centre within the community. Such a centre would be equipped to deal with the diverse but interrelated problems of these men. This would eliminate the confusion and abuse associated with requiring the men to obtain services from a number of separate agencies. Charles stressed the need to avoid imposing middle class values on these patients and noted the effectiveness of promoting interaction within a group of men from a similar background.

Summary. The literature surveyed in this chapter reveals a growing awareness of the severity and complexity of the problems of the transient man. It is becoming increasingly apparent that comprehensive and innovative programs are needed if these men are to be rehabilitated. However, in order to be effective these programs must be based on adequate information concerning the transient men and their problems. The lack of effective rehabilitative programs may well be due to the lack of adequate research in this area.

The following chapter will outline the methods and procedures used in this study. They represent an effort to

provide valid and accurate information of some practical relevance.

CHAPTER III

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

The methods and procedures of this study were largely determined by the broad scope and the descriptive nature of the study. An effort was made to obtain information descriptive of a wide range of transient men in Edmonton. This chapter will discuss the selection of the research sample, method of data collection, definitions of terms and treatment of the data.

Sample

The data on which this study was based were obtained by interviewing 100 men at the Edmonton Day Centre. The reason for conducting the interviews at the Centre was that the stated function of this agency is to provide services to homeless, transient men (Annual Report, 1970, p. 1). Because the Day Centre is a community agency with no restrictions concerning who may attend, it was expected that a more representative sample of transient men would be obtained there than in a governmental or religiously sponsored agency. Other practical considerations included easy accessibility to the transient men, cooperation from the staff and a suitable administrative structure.

The men who comprised the sample were chosen as representatively as possible from the men who used the facilities of the Day Centre on week days during the month of March, 1970. (The actual interviewing process extended from March

5, 1970, to April 7, 1970). The Day Centre has made a practice of issuing new membership cards annually to the men using it's facilities. The research interview was made a part of the registration procedure required of the men in order to obtain or renew their membership cards.

The interviews were conducted by the writer and by various members of the Day Centre staff. In order to minimize biases affecting selection in the sampling procedure, the recreation area supervisor was asked to direct men to the interview rooms. He chose the men on the basis of who had most recently arrived at the Centre when a request was made for the interviewees. Interviews were conducted between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. whenever the interviewers were available. No other criteria were used to select interviewees except that they must be willing to be interviewed and they must be available for the time required for the interview, about one hour in duration. It should be noted that approximately ten men refused to be interviewed or were unable to stay for the required length of time. Among those refusing, no other common characteristic could be discerned by the interviewers, i.e. a variety of ages, racial origins and attitudes were noted.

As an additional check on the representativeness of the research sample a second study was carried out (See Appendix B). A brief questionnaire was administered to 100 men at the Edmonton Day Centre on April 19, 1970, a Sunday morning. The questionnaire was administered to the

first 100 men entering the Day Centre who were not members or who had not renewed their membership in the past year. Therefore, none of the men in the research study were included here but a much higher percentage of men were included who seldom frequented the Day Centre on week days.

The data obtained from this second sample suggests that the research sample is fairly representative of the general transient population in terms of age, education, vocational training and present status as "unemployed". However, it would appear that the research sample contains a disproportionately high number of men who have been married at some time and of men who were living in private accommodation. This suggests that the "average" transient man may be somewhat more mobile and less socially stable than are the men in the research sample.

The comparison between the two samples appears to support the expectation that the research study would contain a reasonably comprehensive and representative sample of transient men. It must be noted, however, that as a result the data are probably not entirely descriptive of the most highly mobile group among Edmonton's transient population.

Data Collection

A nine page questionnaire was designed for use in this study. (See Appendix A). It drew from the questionnaires used in the Winnipeg and Toronto studies but emphasized the present circumstances and attitudes of these men rather than

the psychological and sociological factors leading to their present situation. The original intention was to have the men fill in the questionnaires themselves in small supervised groups. However, a pilot attempt proved this method to be inadequate for the purposes of this study because the men had trouble understanding the questions and maintaining interest. Therefore, the questionnaires were completed by interviewers who met with each interviewee individually. Periodic meetings of the interviewers were held to standardize procedures.

In spite of two pilot administrations with subsequent revisions of the questionnaire, several ambiguities, omissions and redundant questions were discovered in the tabulation of results from the questionnaire used in the study. As a result, some of the findings are less valuable and reliable than anticipated. However, the general approach of making the questions as relevant as possible to the interviewee proved very worthwhile. The resulting increase in difficulty in processing the data appears justified.

Definitions

As noted previously (p.35, Ch. II) the classification of men as transients entails a somewhat arbitrary subdivision of the skid row community. However, the term "transient" has become generally accepted as a designation for the men who are served by agencies such as the Single Men's Hostel or the Edmonton Day Centre. Although many of

the studies in this area use somewhat differing definitions of "transient", several common characteristics appear in all of them. In this study the term "transient" will be used to refer to men who:

1. do not have a permanent home of their own.
2. are not steadily employed, i.e. are unemployed at the time of this study.
3. do not have a wife or family with whom they reside.
4. are potentially or in fact highly mobile. "Potential mobility" refers here to the ease or facility with which the location of residence may be altered.

In some of the tables, Alberta is divided into four sections in order to make the information more specific. Northern Alberta refers to the part of Alberta north of the 55th parallel. Southern Alberta is the area south of the 53rd parallel. The Edmonton area includes the entire area between the 53rd and 55th parallels excluding the City of Edmonton which constitutes a separate area. It should be noted that the Edmonton area is designated as such rather arbitrarily and extends in an east-west direction to both provincial boundaries as do the northern and southern areas.

Treatment of Data

In view of the descriptive nature of this study, the primary goal was to present the data in such a form that a maximum amount of useful information would be communicated to the reader. The completed questionnaires were grouped

by age categories of ten years, i.e. under 20 years, 20 - 29 years, etc. This provides a means of comparing the various age groups and will reveal progressive patterns in the transients' way of life. Also, it indicates differences in the characteristics of various age groups. Replies to the various questions were totalled according to the above categories and converted to percentages of the total group as well as of the sub-groups-by-age.

The total figures for the entire sample are presented in the first column under the heading "Total group". The totals for the six age categories are placed to the immediate right of the "Total group" column as a means of comparison. It should be noted, however, that the number of subjects in each age category varies greatly. Therefore, the total for the lowest and highest age categories, which have an N of three and four respectively, must be compared cautiously with the other age category totals. It should be pointed out as well that the column totals deviate from 100 in some cases due to rounding errors. These tables, grouped according to the nine sections in the questionnaire, were then summarized and conclusions were drawn. Several recommendations were made on the basis of the data obtained.

Chapters IV to XII will present the findings of the study. Each chapter deals with a separate topic included in the questionnaire. These topics are discussed in the order in which they appeared in the questionnaire.

CHAPTER IV

PERSONAL INFORMATION

The first section in the questionnaire dealt with a variety of questions concerning the men's age, location of residence, racial origin, citizenship and religion.

Age

The average age of the men in the sample was 41.7 years (Table 1). The sample approaches a normal distribution although it is slightly negatively skewed. A majority of the men were between the ages of 30 and 49. The small number of men under 20 or 60 and over suggests that these men are neither members of the transient youth culture nor of the elderly, retired segment of the population. Rather, they come from a wide age range within the labor force.

TABLE 1

AGE

Age Group							
Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60- & over N=4	
Per cent of men *	3	13	28	30	22	4	100

* The sample consisted of 100 men. Therefore, the figures for the total group represent both percentage and actual number of men. Average age of the men was 41.7 years.

Accommodation

The Single Men's Hostel clearly plays a major role in providing accommodation for transient men. Seventy-one per cent of the men were staying either at the Hostel or in one of the accommodations to which the Hostel refers men, viz. Colona Rooms, Abner House, Salvation Army Hostel. However, twenty-two per cent stated they were living in private rented rooms. An additional seven per cent listed other types of private accommodation (Table 2).

A general trend can be discerned in the difference in age categories. The percentage of men living in government-provided accommodation tends to decline as age increases while private accommodation increases. Declining mobility and increasing eligibility for various pension funds may account in part for this trend.

The lack of dependency on friends or relatives and the small number of men in stable, private types of accommodation is indicative of the unique culture of these men.

Racial Origin and Citizenship

In terms of racial origin the men tend to come from the larger groups in our population. Over one half of the men are of British origin, at least in part. Nearly one quarter of the men listed native Indian origin and eighteen per cent listed French. Only twenty-three per cent noted any other country of origin. Of the total group ninety-seven per cent claimed Canadian citizenship (Table 3).

Table 2 shows the number of men living in various types of accommodation at the time of the study.

TABLE 2
LOCATION OF RESIDENCE

Type of Accommodation	Total Group N=100	Age Group					
		Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Single Men's Hostel	48%	67%	54%	64%	43%	32%	25%
Colona Rooms	3	--	--	7	--	5	--
Abner House	15	33	15	11	27	5	--
Salvation Army Hostel	5	--	--	7	3	9	--
Total Government provided accommodation	71	100	69	89	73	51	25
Own hotel room	4	--	15	--	3	5	--
Suite or apartment	2	--	8	--	--	5	--
Private rented room	22	--	8	11	20	41	75
With friends	1	--	--	--	3	--	--
With relatives	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Private Accommodation	29	--	31	11	26	51	75
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%*	102%*	100%

* Slight deviations from 100% are due to minor rounding errors in column entries

TABLE 3
RACIAL ORIGIN

Total group			Age group					
	Total	Sub total	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 & over
	N=100	N=100	N=3	N=13	N=28	N=30	N=22	N=4
BRITISH	55%	--	--	53%	61%	47%	68	50%
English		22%	--	15	21	23	27	25
Irish		19	--	15	29	17	18	--
Scottish		13	--	15	11	7	23	25
Welsh		1	--	8	--	--	--	--
FRENCH	18	--	75	8	18	17	18	--
NATIVE	23	--	--	39	25	20	19	25
Indian		12	--	31	14	10	5	--
Metis		11	--	8	11	10	14	25
GERMANIC	7	--	--	8	4	3	14	25
German		4	--	8	--	--	9	25
Swiss		1	--	--	4	--	--	--
Dutch		2	--	--	--	3	5	--
SCANDI- NAVIAN	7	--	--	16	8	7	5	--
Swedish		4	--	8	--	7	5	--
Norwegian		1	--	8	--	--	--	--
Danish		1	--	--	4	--	--	--
Finish		1	--	--	4	--	--	--
SLAVIC	9	--	50	8	8	10	5	--
Ukranian		6	50	8	--	7	5	--
Polish		1	--	--	--	3	--	--
Hungar- ian		1	--	--	4	--	--	--
Bulgar- ian		1	--	--	4	--	--	--
	119*	119*						

* Totals are greater than 100 because some of the men listed more than one country of origin. This may suggest that the parents were from two different nationalities, e.g. French and English. "Metis" was considered as one distinct racial origin.

These figures suggest that the transient men are not minority group members or recent immigrants who are having difficulty in adjusting to a new culture. Rather, these are men from the most well represented racial groups in our country. It is interesting that the English-speaking countries are so well represented while the more cohesive cultural groups, i.e. Chinese, Jewish, Italians are not represented at all although these groups constitute identifiable communities in the Boyle Street area.

Religion

A number of questions were asked concerning the men's involvement with a church and their personal attitude toward religion. These data are presented in Tables 4 through 7.

TABLE 4

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

[illegible]

TABLE 5
CHURCH AFFILIATION

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Roman Catholic	26%	67%	15%	21%	33%	18%	50%
Anglican	11	33	8	7	17	5	25
United	18	--	8	18	23	23	--
Baptist	3	--	--	--	7	5	--
Other	7	--	15	11	--	5	25
Total	65%*	100%	46%	57%	80%	56%	100%

* Some who are not church members may have stated affiliation
c.f. 55% in Table 4.

TABLE 6
FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Once a week or more	9%	--	8%	--	20%	9%	--
Once a month or more	6	--	8	11	--	9	--
Once in a while	42	67	31	36	57	27	75
Special occasion	12	--	15	21	10	5	--
Never	29	33	39	32	10	46	25
No answer	2	--	--	--	3	5	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%

TABLE 7
IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Very important	16%	33%	--	11%	17%	23%	50%
Fairly important	41	33	31	39	63	23	25
Not very im- portant	22	33	46	14	17	23	25
Not important at all	21	--	23	36	3	32	--
Total	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%

Traditionally, Christian churches have provided services to the poor and disadvantaged. A number of church-sponsored missions and agencies exist in the Boyle Street area of Edmonton. However, the humanitarian and religious roles of the churches appear to be rather vaguely defined for the transient men.

From the above data it may be inferred that a majority of the men identify themselves to some extent with a church. Fifty-five per cent claimed church membership, sixty-five per cent stated some church affiliation and fifty-seven per cent indicated that religion had at least a fair degree of importance to them. However, only fifteen per cent claimed regular

church attendance of even once a month. The comments made by the men while answering this section indicated that they tended to think of the church as a very formal organization or a source of assistance rather than a union of people sharing a common faith. As a result, the churches provided little incentive for meaningful involvement by the transient men. It was noted that the men in their twenties were lowest in church membership and in their evaluation of the importance of religion while the men in their forties were highest in both categories.

The denominations of the churches with which these men are affiliated again indicates that these men come from a wide cross section of the population rather than from particular sub-groups. The Roman Catholic, United and Anglican churches accounted for fifty-five of the sixty-five church affiliations listed in Table 5.

Summary

The data presented in this chapter suggest that the transient men tend to come from the major segments of Canadian society in terms of racial origin, citizenship and religious affiliation. The men's age distribution covers a wide cross section of the labor force. A large majority of the men live in government-provided accommodation. It may be concluded that the transient men do not represent a racial or religious subgroup and are not a unique group in terms of age or citizenship.

CHAPTER V

HEALTH

The second section of the questionnaire dealt with health. Information was gathered on the nature and extent of health problems as well as the type of health care being received and the deficiencies in available medical care.

Health Problems

A high incidence of health problems was reported by the men. Table 8 shows their own estimation of their general level of health.

TABLE 8
GENERAL LEVEL OF HEALTH

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Good	55%	100%	85%	71%	50%	27%	--
Fair	36	--	8	25	40	59	75
Poor	8	--	8	--	10	14	25
No answer	1	--	--	4	--	--	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Although over half of the men reported good health, forty-four per cent indicated either fair or poor health. However, this figure does not appear to reveal the actual extent of the health problems in this group as sixty-six per cent subsequently listed at least one physical disability (See Table 9). It should be noted that the term "physical disability" was used rather loosely to include all of the conditions listed in Table 10.

TABLE 9
NUMBER OF MEN CLAIMING DISABILITIES

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	66%	--	62%	54%	67%	86%	100%
No	34	100	39	46	33	14	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

This suggests that the men may accept a certain degree of ill health as the norm and may be unaware of the extent of their health problems. During the course of the interviews it was noted by the interviewers that many of the men denied any physical disability until a specific list of possible disabilities was suggested to them.

The types of disabilities acknowledged by the men in Table 10 reveal some very useful information.

TABLE 10

NATURE OF DISABILITIES LISTED
(Expressed in per cent of men listing each disability)

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Alcoholism	38%	--	31%	32%	37%	46%	100%
Poor vision	31	--	23	7	40	50	75
Chronic illness (not specified)	18	--	--	--	30	18	125
"Bad nerves"	18	--	23	14	17	23	25
Rheumatism	13	--	--	4	13	32	25
Injury	12	--	8	18	3	14	50
Amputation	9	--	8	4	13	14	--
Deafness	6	--	--	--	3	9	75
Ulcers	5	--	--	7	7	5	--
Paralysis	5	--	--	--	7	9	25
Asthma	4	--	--	4	3	9	--
Hernia	3	--	--	4	--	5	25
Other	6	--	8	4	10	5	--
Total	168						
Average number of disabilities	1.68*	0	1.0	0.98	1.83	2.39	5.25

*Total number of disabilities listed was 168. Average number of disabilities for the men listing at least one disability was 2.5

The most frequently acknowledged disability (thirty-eight per cent) was alcoholism. This would suggest that alcoholism is a major problem for these men. Also, because it is a frequently denied problem the likelihood exists that alcoholism or heavy drinking involves a significantly greater percentage of the transient men than this figure indicates. Almost one third of the men complained of poor vision. Twenty-six per cent suffer from amputation, paralysis or other injury. Forty-three per cent listed some form of chronic illness including rheumatism, ulcers, asthma, hernia and unspecified chronic illnesses. Eighteen per cent of the men complained of "bad nerves". This was the only specified disability dealing directly with possible mental illness. These figures suggest that a very high rate of chronic illness and alcoholism exist among these men as well as a substantial number of persons with physical injuries and possible mental illness.

The figures also suggest that physical deterioration accelerates rapidly from the age of 40. The men under 20 listed no disabilities while the men 60 or over listed an average of $5\frac{1}{4}$ disabilities each. The average number of disabilities for the entire sample was 1.68. The average number of disabilities for all men claiming some disability was 2.5. It should also be noted that these figures represent only those disabilities known to the men and reported by them. It appears probable that the men are not aware of the entire extent of their physical problems.

More specific information was obtained by asking the men if they had trouble with a number of specified organs (See Table 11).

TABLE 11

NUMBER OF MEN HAVING TROUBLE WITH SPECIFIC ORGANS

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Eyes	21%	33%	8%	11%	23%	27%	75%
Stomach	9	--	--	11	13	5	25
Heart	8	--	--	4	3	18	50
Bladder	8	--	--	--	10	14	50
Lungs	7	--	--	7	7	5	50
Ears	5	--	8	--	3	--	75
Bowels	4	--	--	4	3	5	25
Total	67						
Average number of problems listed (for total number of men)	0.67	0.33	0.16	0.37	0.62	0.74	3.5

Problems with eyes again included a large number. Disorders involving the stomach and bowels were the second most common although the figures appear to indicate a fairly general pattern of ill health. The high incidence of illness is, however, not reflected in an expressed need for medical attention as shown by Table 12.

TABLE 12
NUMBER OF MEN PRESENTLY IN NEED OF
MEDICAL ATTENTION

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	29%	--	31%	18%	37%	36%	25%
No	69	100	54	82	63	64	75
No answer	2	--	15	--	--	--	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: no attempt was made to differentiate here between chronic and acute conditions requiring medical attention.

Only twenty-nine per cent of the men indicated a need for medical attention in spite of the 168 specific disabilities noted by sixty-six per cent of the sample.(See Tables 9 and 10). An interesting comparison may be made of the number of men claiming good health (Table 8) and the number stating a need for medical attention in each age category (Table 12). Only the men in the 20 - 29 year old group indicated more frequently a need for medical attention than had been suggested by the number lacking good health. For the other age groups the general trend was toward accelerating physical deterioration accompanied by a progressive decline in apparent awareness of need for medical attention.

These findings were emphasized by the men's responses

when asked to specify the nature of their need for medical attention (See Table 13).

TABLE 13
CONDITIONS FOR WHICH MEDICAL ATTENTION
IS REQUIRED

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Dental	7%	--	15%	7%	--	14%	--
Optical	7	--	8	4	10	9	--
General com- plaints*	7	--	--	4	13	5	25
Pulmonary	3	--	--	4	3	5	--
Alcoholism	2	--	8	--	3	--	---
Skin	2	--	--	--	7	--	--
Other**	8	--	8	4	12	10	--
Total	36%	--	39%	23%	48%	43%	25%
Average number per group (corrected for rounding error)	0.36	--	0.39	0.21	0.5	0.41	0.25

* Includes all stated symptoms which were too general to classify accurately, e.g. dizziness, internal pain, etc.

** Includes one each of: gastro-intestinal, cardiac and urinary problems, as well as venereal disease, diabetes, arthritis, epilepsy, and preventive care.

The most commonly noted needs were for dental and optical attention (seven per cent of each). Compared to the total of thirty-one per cent (Table 10) indicating poor vision, this represents a small proportion of those actually in need of medical help. An even greater discrepancy is noted in regard to alcoholism. Although thirty-eight per cent stated that this was a disability, only two per cent indicated a need for medical attention in this regard. Of 13 men indicating gastro-intestinal problems (Table 2) only one indicated a need for attention to this problem.

Tables 8 to 13 reveal a very high incidence of physical and possible mental disability following an accelerating, progressive pattern with age. This situation is accompanied and probably compounded by a decided lack of awareness of the seriousness of the problems and the need for treatment. This suggests that a large number of these men are not capable of ensuring that they receive proper medical care even if this is available.

Health Care

The second part of the section on health dealt with the extent of care being received. The men were asked if they were receiving medication of any kind (Table 14) and the condition for which the medication was being received (Table 15).

TABLE 14
NUMBER OF MEN PRESENTLY TAKING MEDICATION

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	17%	--	15%	4%	33%	9%	50%
No	82	100	77	96	67	91	50
No answer	1	--	8	--	--	--	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Only seventeen per cent of the men stated that they were receiving some form of medication. Other forms of treatment were not explored in the questionnaire but it seems probable that receipt of medication is the most common form of treatment received by these men as they did not mention other ongoing forms of treatment. These data somewhat modify the conclusions based on the first part of the section on health. However, major discrepancies still exist between the number of health problems listed and the amount of treatment received or even desired. Of thirteen per cent listing gastro-intestinal disorders only two per cent were receiving medication. Of thirty-eight per cent admitting to alcoholism three per cent were receiving medication for alcoholism. Of eighteen per cent with "bad nerves" two per cent were receiving medication. If we disregard any overlap between stated need

TABLE 15
CONDITIONS FOR WHICH MEDICATION
IS BEING TAKEN

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Alcoholism	3%	--	--	4%	7%	--	--
Pulmonary	3	--	--	--	7	5	--
General	3	--	8	4	--	--	25
Gastro-intesti- nal	2	--	--	4	--	--	25
Nerves	2	--	--	--	3	--	25
Skin	2	--	--	--	7	--	--
Other*	9	--	8	--	21	5	--
Total	24%						
Average number receiving medi- cation (corrected for rounding errors)	0.24	0	0.15	0.11	0.47	0.09	0.75

* Includes one each of the following conditions: optical, cardiac, urinary, venereal disease, diabetis, arthritis, epilepsy, neurological, infection.

for medical attention (Table 12) and stated receipt of medication (Table 14) twelve per cent of the men are not having even these recognized needs met. A comparison of the men listing some degree of physical impairment (Table 8) with those receiving medication (Table 14) reveals an even more striking difference of twenty-seven per cent. Finally, a comparison of those listing an average of 2.5 disabilities each (Tables 9 and 10) with those receiving medication reveals a difference of forty-nine per cent. Expressed in another form, this means that of 168 listed disabilities only 24 were being treated by some form of medication.

A comparison of Tables 9 and 14 suggests that the men in their fifties receive a remarkably low amount of medication in spite of a very high incidence of ill health. Meanwhile, a comparatively large percentage of men in their forties with significantly better health receive medication. Bearing in mind the small number of men involved, it was found that although the men of 60 and over represent the highest percentage receiving medication (fifty per cent) they also have more than three times the average number of disabilities (Table 10). Of the 40 - 49 year old group, with only slightly more than the average number of disabilities, thirty-three per cent receive medication. This would suggest that with the possible exception of the under 20 year old group the men in their forties receive the most nearly adequate medical care although this is still far short of truly adequate care.

A further measure of medical care was obtained by asking the men when they had last seen a doctor, a dentist and an eye specialist.

TABLE 16
LENGTH OF TIME SINCE LAST SEEN BY
DOCTOR, DENTIST AND EYE SPECIALIST

		Age Group					
Total Group N=100		Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
DOCTOR	n*= 96	1	13	27	30	21	4
average time	20 mo	4 mo	10 mo	37 mo	13 mo	18 mo	9 mo
never	2%	67%	--	--	--	--	--
no answer	2	--	--	4	--	5	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
DENTIST	n*= 79	1	7	23	25	19	4
average time	75 mo	9 mo	30 mo	66 mo	83 mo	92 mo	76 mo
never	9%	33%	15%	14%	7%	--	--
no answer	12	33	31	4	10	14	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
EYE SPECIALIST	n*= 45	0	6	11	14	12	2
average time	75 mo	--	33 mo	92 mo	63 mo	88 mo	108 mo
never	40%	67%	31%	50%	40%	27%	50%
no answer	15	33	23	11	13	18	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

n* includes only those men whose responses were used to calculate average time elapsed. Those answering "never" were not included in calculating averages.

The men aged 30 - 39 years show the least general concern for health care as measured by visits to doctors. The figures for the under 20 year old group must be regarded as somewhat unreliable due to the small sample. Their answers suggest a general neglect of health care. The average length of time since seeing a doctor was 20.2 months for the entire sample. The average man had not seen a dentist for 74.2 months (six years, 2.2 months) or an eye specialist for 74.7 months (six years, 2.7 months). It should be noted that these figures do not include the men who stated that they had never been seen by the health care personnel specified. Almost all of the men had been seen by a doctor at some time but a very substantial proportion had never been seen by an eye specialist, while a significant number had never been seen by a dentist. Neglect of dental care appears to increase steadily with age, at least until the age of 60. Optical care appears to be least neglected by the 20 - 29 year old group and most neglected by the men over 60 and the men in their thirties.

A final measure of health care was obtained by obtaining information on hospitalization of the men.

Table 17 shows that fifty-five per cent of the men have been hospitalized an average of 1.7 times in the past five years. A trend toward a steady increase in the hospital admission rate by age categories is broken up by the high figure for the 20 - 29 year old group (double that of the rate for 30 - 39 year olds) and by the extremely low rate

TABLE 17
NUMBER OF HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS IN
PAST FIVE YEARS

		Age Group						
No. of Admissions	Total Group	Total No. of Adm.	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=29	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
None	42%	--	67%	15%	46%	43%	41%	75%
1	36	36	33	23	50	40	23	25
2	10	20	--	23	4	7	18	--
3	5	15	--	15	--	3	9	--
4	2	8	--	--	--	3	5	--
5	1	5	--	--	--	--	5	--
over 5	1	10	--	--	--	3*	--	--
No answer	3	--	--	23	--	--	--	--
Total	100%	94%	100%	99%	100%	99%	101%	100%
Average no. of admissions	0.94	--	0.33	1.15	0.57	1.1	1.27	0.25

* represents ten admissions for one individual
(average number of admissions for the 55% who have been in hospital in the past five years = 1.7)

for the four men in the 60 year and over group.

In comparison to the extent of the medical problems revealed previously, the rate of hospitalization for these men is much lower than one might expect. This may be illustrated by noting that on the basis of the figures in Table 17 only eleven men out of 100 were admitted to hospital during the period of one year, although 29 men (Table 12) realize a need for medical attention and approximately two thirds of the men are able to specify a particular disability (Table 12) or trouble with a specific organ (Table 11). Cardiac, pulmonary, urinary and gastro-intestinal problems alone account for complaints of forty-one per cent of the men. Alcoholism and bad nerves include fifty-six per cent of the men (Table 10).

The reasons given by the men for admission to hospital appear consistent with the transient men's general picture of medical neglect.

Table 18 shows that almost one third of all admissions were as a result of an injury. It seems probable that many of the other admissions also resulted from an acute health problem. The implications of these data concerning the extent of neglect of chronic illness suggest a major area of concern.

It seems safe to conclude that the transient man's health needs are not being adequately met within the hospital setting. However, the nature of many of these needs appear such that out-patient care would not provide adequate

TABLE 18
REASONS FOR ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Injuries	21%	33%	39%	29%	13%	14%	--
Alcoholism	6	--	8	7	10	--	--
General complaints (non specific)	6	--	15	--	7	9	--
Gastro-Intestinal problems	5	--	--	11	--	9	--
General surgery	5	--	--	4	7	9	--
Infections	4	--	8	4	3	5	--
Mental illness	4	--	8	4	3	5	--
Pulmonary ailment	2	--	--	4	--	--	25
Cardiac ailment	2	--	--	--	3	5	--
Neurological ail- ment	2	33	--	--	3	--	--
Urinary ailment	2	--	--	--	7	--	--
Optical ailment	2	--	--	--	--	9	--
Diagnostic assess.	2	--	--	--	3	5	--
Other*	6	--	8	--	10	9	--
Average no.of admissions	0.69	0.66	0.86	0.63	0.69	0.79	0.25

* Includes one each of: venereal disease, arthritis, epilepsy, paralysis, skin condition and preventive service.

diagnostic and treatment services. In addition, it was noted that many of the men commented that they did not know how to obtain needed health care and felt reluctant to seek these services in a hospital setting. A number of the men related experiences in hospital which made them feel they were the object of discrimination.

Summary

The questions concerning health revealed a high incidence of health problems including alcoholism, poor vision, chronic illnesses, nervous problems and injuries. However, although the health problems appeared to increase notably with age, the men appeared to become accustomed to ill health and did not show a corresponding increase in their stated desire for health services. It would seem that the men receive health services primarily on an emergency or out-patient basis. An obvious need exists for health education, routine examination and treatment for chronic ailments.

CHAPTER VI

FINANCE

In order to determine the financial condition of the men, questions were asked about their present financial situation, amount and source of income as well as amount and nature of expenditures and present needs and assets.

Present Financial Status

The present financial status of the men was generally very poor although a few exceptions were found. Table 19 shows the amount of money the men had at the time of the study.

Three quarters of the men had no money at all and only ten per cent had \$10 or more. The average amount of \$20.80 was, therefore, not really a representative figure as the average was inflated by the relatively large amount of money owned by a very small number of the men. The men in their thirties proved to be the "wealthiest" group. Interestingly, the only other group with an above average amount of money was the 50-59 year old category.

This was partially explained by the specification of source of income in Table 20.

The 30-39 group reported salaries as the most frequent source of income while the 50-59 age group relied most heavily on pensions. It should be noted that thirty-four per cent of the men specified a source of income although

TABLE 19
AMOUNT OF MONEY OWNED AT PRESENT

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
None	76%	67%	85%	75%	80%	73%	50%
Under \$10	14	33	15	14	17	--	50
\$10 - \$24	2	--	--	--	3	5	--
\$25 - \$49	3	--	--	4	--	9	--
\$50 - \$100	3	--	--	4	--	9	--
Over \$100	2	--	--	4	--	5	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%
Average amount	\$20.80	\$0.33	\$0.15	\$51.79	\$0.90	\$27.14	\$0.75

only twenty-four per cent reported possession of money. This may suggest that the men spend their money rather quickly and are unable to budget adequately. In addition some of the men may have reported more than one source or the most recent source of income. The men in their twenties are again unusual in their high degree of reliance on borrowing as a source of money.

A further examination of patterns of debt reveals an even more dismal financial picture (Table 21).

TABLE 20
SOURCE OF MONEY POSSESSED AT PRESENT

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & Over N=4
Salary	11%	--	8%	14%	13%	9%	--
Sale of pro- perty	4	--	8	4	--	5	25
Borrowed	5	--	23	4	3	--	--
Gift	6	33	--	4	7	9	--
Other*	8	--	8	--	13	14	--
Total	34%	33%	47%	26%	36%	37%	25%

*Consists mostly of pensions

The average amount of money owed by the men is more than four times as great as the amount owned by them. The greatest debts have been incurred by the men in their forties, thirties and twenties respectively. Most of the debts are of \$50 or more. Although the men were not asked to specify the nature of these debts, it may be surmized that they do not represent short term supplements to the men's budgets. It should be noted that of the twenty-eight per cent of the men who owe money, only five per cent still had any borrowed money. As the men are unemployed, repayment of these debts would appear to be very difficult at present.

TABLE 21
AMOUNT OF MONEY OWED

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
None	71%	100%	69%	82%	53%	73%	100%
Under \$10	1	--	--	--	--	5	--
\$10 - \$24	4	--	15	4	3	--	--
\$25 - \$49	4	--	--	--	3	14	--
\$50 - \$100	10	--	--	7	20	9	--
Over \$100	9	--	15	7	17	--	--
Don't know	1	--	--	--	3	--	--
Total	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	101%	100%
Average amount	\$83.67*	--	\$55.86	\$11.79	\$142.09	\$11.32	

* calculated on the basis of total stated amounts of money owed divided by number of men owing money.

Income

Table 22 reveals a wide variation in amount of earned income over the past twelve months.

The majority of the men (fifty-seven per cent) earned between 500 and 2,000 dollars. Forty-four per cent of the men earned less than \$1,000 and eighty per cent of the men fell below the \$3,000 "poverty line".

TABLE 22
AMOUNT EARNED IN PAST TWELVE MONTHS

		Age Group					
Amount earned	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
No earnings	9%	33%	--	4%	7%	14%	50%
Under \$100	3	--	--	--	--	5%	50%
\$100 - \$499	4	33	--	7	3	--	--
\$500 - \$999	28	--	31	18	40	32	--
\$1,000 - \$1,999	29	33	31	25	27	41	--
\$2,000 - \$2,999	7	--	15	14	3	--	--
\$3,000 - \$3,999	10	--	15	14	13	--	--
\$4,000 - \$4,999	2	--	--	4	--	5	--
\$5,000 - \$5,999	4	--	--	7	7	--	--
\$6,000 & over	2	--	--	7	--	--	--
No answer	2	--	8	--	--	5	--
Total	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	102%	100%

Table 23 lists the average earnings of the men.

The average earned income of \$1,5220.50 reflects the men's low rate of employment as well as their lack of qualifications and ability to hold well salaried positions. This low level of income must be considered a major factor in the problems faced by these men. A comparison of the age groups reveals the transient man's peak earning years appear to be

TABLE 23
AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS

Age group							
Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-29 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4	
Amount * (in dollars)	1522.50	749.67	1375.39	2318.75	1525.34	971.00	16.25

* Based on previous twelve months.

from 30 to 39 years of age. From the age of 40 a steady decline takes place. Canada's Old Age Security Pension Plan appears to be largely irrelevant to these men as none of them had reached the age of 65, although their earning power has dwindled to practically nothing by the time they reach the age of 60.

The amount and source of present (non-salaried) income was also investigated. This information is presented in Tables 24 to 26.

Twenty-two per cent of the men claimed an average regular income of \$112.80 per month at the time of the study. This money came primarily from unemployment insurance payments to the younger men (under 50) and pension payments to the older men (over 50). It should be noted that the non-salary income raised the total average income of the entire sample by \$258.60 per year to \$1,781.10 calculated on a 12 month basis. It is also noteworthy that although twenty-two per cent of the men claimed a non-salary income only eight

TABLE 24
PERCENTAGE OF MEN WITH A REGULAR
INCOME AT PRESENT

		Age Group					
	Total Group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	22%	--	15%	18%	17%	36%	50%
No	77	100	85	82	83	59	50
No answer	1	--	--	--	--	5	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 25
AVERAGE MONTHLY AMOUNT OF PRESENT REGULAR INCOME

		Age group					
	Total group N=22	Under 20 N=0	20-29 N=2	30-39 N=5	40-49 N=5	50-59 N=8	60 & over N=2
Amount*	\$112.80	--	\$128.00	\$87.00	\$120.00	\$83.00	\$100.00

* Calculated only for those claiming this income - not for the entire group.

TABLE 26
SOURCE OF PRESENT INCOME

		Age Group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Unemployment insurance	9%	--	15%	11%	10%	5%	--
Pensions	9	--	--	--	3	27	50
Workmen's Comp- ensation	2	--	--	7	--	--	--
Other	1	--	--	--	--	5	--
No answer	1	--	--	--	3	--	--
Total	22%	--	15%	18%	16%	37%	50%

per cent actually had any money from these sources at the time of the interview (Table 20).

Expenditures

The men's spending patterns followed closely their earning capacity and proved highly interesting. Table 27 consists of a monthly budget based on the average amounts that the men reported spending on various items in an average month.

Although the men found it very difficult to provide accurate estimates of their expenditures a composite budget,

Chapter 10: The History of the United States

The history of the United States is a complex and multifaceted story that spans centuries. It is a story of exploration, discovery, and the struggle for freedom and justice.

The early history of the United States is marked by the arrival of European settlers in the late 15th century. These settlers brought with them a new way of life, one that was based on the principles of democracy and individualism.

Over the years, the United States has grown from a small colony into a powerful nation. It has played a leading role in the world, shaping the course of human history.

The history of the United States is a story of triumph and tragedy. It is a story of the American dream, of the pursuit of happiness, and of the struggle for equality.

The United States has a rich and diverse heritage. It is a land of many cultures, languages, and traditions. This diversity is one of its greatest strengths.

The history of the United States is a story of progress and innovation. It is a story of the American spirit, of the desire to build a better future.

The United States has a long and proud history. It is a nation that has stood for the principles of liberty and justice for all.

The history of the United States is a story of hope and optimism. It is a story of the American people, of their dreams, and of their achievements.

The United States is a nation that has made a difference in the world. It is a nation that has inspired others to strive for a better life.

The history of the United States is a story of resilience and strength. It is a story of the American people, of their courage, and of their determination.

The United States is a nation that has a bright future. It is a nation that is full of potential and promise.

The history of the United States is a story of the American people, of their dreams, and of their achievements.

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The history of the United States is a story of hope and optimism. It is a story of the American people, of their dreams, and of their achievements.

The United States is a nation that has a bright future. It is a nation that is full of potential and promise.

TABLE 27
AVERAGE MONTHLY SPENDING

Items included in budget *	Total group N=100	Age Group					
		Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Alcohol	\$50.52	--	\$60.83	\$67.33	\$50.19	\$36.00	\$6.00
Food	23.42	--	--	43.12	46.42	36.00	40.00
Rent	22.33	--	23.33	24.51	26.00	17.23	20.50
Clothes	15.51	--	7.53	27.51	15.24	10.09	2.50
Tobacco	9.02	6.60	9.00	12.03	9.39	5.47	4.00
Entertainment**	7.26	--	1.84	11.61	6.00	9.25	0.66
Transportation	6.50	--	1.60	12.96	6.46	2.47	1.33
Other	1.07	--	1.53	43.87	6.87	0.33	10.00
Total	\$135.63	6.60	105.66	242.94	166.57	116.84	84.99

* Arranged in decreasing order of average amount spent

**The men were not asked to specify the nature of their entertainment. Where they specified alcohol as entertainment this figure was included only in the figures for alcohol.

Note: Through an oversight, food was not listed among the suggested expenditures. Consequently the average amounts shown in this category are based on only 20 volunteered responses. However, it should be noted that many of the men receive free meals at the Hostels and the Marian Centre when they are in Edmonton. In addition, a number of men commented that meals are provided by the employer when they are working "out of town".

Ten per cent of the total group did not specify the amount they spent on alcohol. However, most of these men noted that alcohol was a major expense. As a result, the average figures given may be somewhat lower than the actual amount spent. The remaining figures presented in this table represent very nearly 100% of the total group and are based on the most accurate estimates which the men were able to give.

constructed by averaging the amounts of all the men's stated expenditures, accounted for most of their earnings. The average monthly expenditure of \$135.63 accounts for approximately ninety per cent of the average total monthly income of \$148.43 (calculated from 23). Alcohol claims the largest part of the transient man's budget - more than food and rent combined. Clothing was the only other item over \$10 per month. The men spent less on transportation than on tobacco or entertainment. Aside from these basic items the men could account for only \$1.07 per month.

As was expected, the 30-39 year old group proved to be the "big spenders", particularly on unspecified "luxury" items such as personal effects, special food items, radios, television sets, and cars as well as on alcohol, clothing, transportation, tobacco and entertainment. The 40-49 year old group spent more money on food and rent in spite of lower earnings. The 20-29 year old group spent a higher proportion of their income on alcohol than did any other group. This resulted in sacrifices in spending on clothes, food, entertainment, transportation and luxuries. The under 20 group listed no expenses other than tobacco. The men in their fifties splurged on entertainment and spent a proportionately high percentage of their income on food and alcohol. The 60 and over group reveals a very frugal budget with food as the greatest expense followed by rent. This group shows a sharp drop in alcohol purchasing.

Another viewpoint on the men's spending was obtained by constructing a table showing the percentage of men who listed zero expense for the various items (Table 28).

TABLE 28
PERCENTAGE OF MEN LISTING ZERO EXPENSE

		Age Group					
Budget Item	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Alcohol	21%	100%	31%	7%	17%	27%	25%
Rent	43	100	46	36	40	50	25
Clothes	34	100	62	21	23	36	50
Tobacco	17	67	31	14	13	9	25
Entertainment	46	67	77	36	37	50	50
Transportation	46	100	77	36	33	50	50
Other	29	--	92	14	17	36	--

Note: Because "food" did not appear on the questionnaire as a suggested expenditure it was not possible to determine how many men do not spend money on this item. The remaining items are listed in the order in which they appear in Table 27.

Transportation and entertainment were most frequently stricken from the budget followed closely by rent. Tobacco and alcohol appeared most frequently as expenses. It may be concluded that only about one fifth of the men are teetotalers.

Material Needs and Assets

The men's perceptions of their basic needs as shown in Tables 29 and 30 suggest a significant degree of aculturation to their present mode of life.

TABLE 29
PERCENTAGE OF MEN LACKING SOME NECESSITY OF LIFE

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=20	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	37%	33%	31%	32%	37%	41%	75%
No	51	67	69	64	30	55	25
No answer	12	--	--	4	33	5	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%

Only thirty-seven per cent of the men stated that they lacked any necessities of life. Significantly, the perception of the unmet basic needs increases steadily from the age of 40 and becomes acute in the over 60 group. Lack of clothing was mentioned most frequently (fifteen per cent) and lack of medical attention was second (nine per cent). The low number mentioning a job or a home (six per cent and three per cent respectively) suggests that the men tend to think in very immediate, concrete terms. It should be noted that

TABLE 30
NATURE OF NECESSITIES LACKED

		Age group:					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Clothes	15%	33%	15%	21%	7%	9%	50%
Medical atten- tion	9	--	8	4	7	18	25
Job	6	--	--	7	10	5	--
Transportation	4	--	8	--	10	--	--
Entertainment	4	--	--	--	7	5	25
Home	3	--	--	4	3	5	--
Toiletries	2	--	8	--	--	--	25
Alcohol	2	--	--	--	3	--	25
Other*	6	--	8	7	--	14	--
Average number of unmet needs (for total group)	0.33	0.47	0.43	0.47	0.56	1.5	0.51

* Includes education, food, money, machinery, land, and tobacco.

the term "necessities of life" was not interpreted by the men as limited to food, clothing and shelter.

Finally, the men were asked to list their possessions (Table 31).

The significance of poverty in a materialistic society is emphasized by the men's lack of property. Aside

TABLE 31
PROPERTY OWNED BY THE MEN

Items	Total group N=100	Age group					
		Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Clothes *	51%	--	62%	61%	50%	41%	50%
Radio	14	--	--	11	10	23	75
Television	6	--	8	7	--	14	--
Miscellaneous personal effects	12	--	8	18	10	9	25
Suitcase	5	--	--	--	10	5	--
Tools	3	--	--	4	4	5	--
Money outstan- ding	3	--	--	7	4	--	--
Farm	2	--	--	4	--	5	--
Appliances	2	--	--	--	4	5	--
Other **	3	--	8	4	3	--	--

* May have been interpreted in terms of monetary or resale value.

** Includes a life insurance policy, a car and a grave plot.

from clothing, the men's possessions consisted almost entirely of a few radios, television sets and a variety of personal effects. Decidedly intriguing, in a lighter vein, is the absence of a more significant number of suitcases, the symbols of mobility.

Summary

The findings in this section emphasize the fact that the transient men experience extreme poverty. A great majority had little or no money. Their average annual income is not sufficient to meet even their basic needs. This situation is compounded further by the high proportion of money being spent on alcohol. The men do not appear able to budget their earnings efficiently. As a result they are highly dependent on the limited forms of social assistance available to them.

CHAPTER VIII

EDUCATION

The men in the study were asked several questions about their educational background and aspirations. These questions were concerned with the level of education obtained, attitudes toward education and location of their most recent schooling.

Educational Background

Educational attainment ranged from no formal education to a university degree.

Table 46 reveals that the average grade completed was 8.1 years. This figure does not appear to distinguish these men significantly from the general population of men in low-skill jobs (The Homeless Man on Skid Row, 1961, p. 16). In terms of eligibility for vocational training programs, it is interesting to note that thirty per cent of the men had less than grade eight education and twenty-nine per cent had grade ten or more. Of the entire sample of 100 men only one had indicated that he had received any academic upgrading since leaving school.

The men showed a steady decline in educational level with increasing age except for a sharply lower level in the 40-49 year old group. A possible explanation for this discrepancy may be found in the fact that most of the men in this group were leaving school just prior to and during the Second World War.

The average age at leaving school was found to be 15.3

TABLE 32
NUMBER OF MEN PRESENTLY LOOKING FOR WORK

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	80%	100%	92%	89%	83%	64%	25%
No	19	--	8	11	13	36	75
Has job pros- pect	1	--	--	--	4	--	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

These figures reveal that the greatest proportion of men (fifty-six per cent) rely to some extent on Canada Manpower Services to obtain employment. Forty-four per cent of the men had applied to one of the two companies mentioned (Manpower Services and Industrial Overload) which provide casual day labor. Thirty-seven per cent of the men had contacted private companies in Edmonton and twenty-six per cent had applied through various channels for jobs in the North. It is interesting to note that only three per cent of the men had sought employment outside of Alberta. The low number of applications for work through the Marion Centre Co-op Club and the Bissel Community Centre (eight per cent and five per cent respectively) suggests that the men place very little reliance on these agencies although they are the

TABLE 33

NUMBER OF MEN APPLYING TO VARIOUS
PLACES FOR JOBS

		Age group					
Applied to: *	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Canada Manpower	56%	67%	62%	68%	63%	32%	25%
Private Companies in Edmonton	37	67	39	43	33	36	--
Private companies for "up north"	26	33	23	29	30	23	--
Manpower services	26	--	8	18	43	27	25
Industrial overload	18	67	15	7	30	9	25
Marion centre co-op club	8	--	15	4	10	9	25
Bissell Institute	5	--	8	4	7	5	--
Out of Alberta	3	--	--	7	3	--	--
Other	14	33	8	18	17	9	--
Average number of applications	1.93	2.67	1.78	1.89	2.37	1.50	1.00

*Arranged in descending order of total number applying.

only employment services designed specifically to meet the needs of the transient man.

The total number of men applying to each agency was calculated although data on actual number of applications was not obtained. Noting the small number of men involved, the under 20 year old group appeared to be most active and resourceful in seeking employment. They were followed by the 40-49 year old group. However, even the least active group (60 and over) averaged one job application each. The total group had applied for work at an average of 1.93 places each. It must be noted that all of these job applications had resulted in prospective employment for only one man (Table 32) at the time of the study.

Data was also obtained regarding the level of employability and is presented in Table 34.

Over half the men felt they were capable of heavy labor. Thirty-nine per cent listed a specific job skill and nine per cent had a specific trade. However, further questions revealed that only twenty per cent had obtained vocational training. Another difficulty revealed in the interview was that many of the men with a trade had been certified in another province and were not allowed to practise their trade in Alberta. It appears significant that none of the men under 30 years of age had obtained a trade and that the greatest concentration of tradesmen occurred among the men in their forties.

The figures in Table 35 emphasize the lack of

TABLE 34
LEVEL OF CAPABILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Labor-light work only	25%	33%	23%	11%	20%	46%	50%
Labor-heavy work	54	67	69	75	60	14	25
Skilled work	39	33	15	57	57	50	25
Trade (with papers)	9	--	--	11	17	5	--
Average number of responses	1.27*						

*Some men listed more than one response.

training among the younger men. Of the 20 men who had special vocational training, 18 were over 30 years of age and 12 were over 40.

The men were asked to specify the kind of training they had received (Table 36). It should be noted that this question elicited 24 responses compared to the 20 claiming special vocational training in Table 35.

Again, the preponderance of training among the 40-59 year old men is remarkable. The variety of vocational skills represented among these unemployed men represent a great waste of abilities. Inadequate job placement services

TABLE 35
NUMBER OF MEN WITH SPECIAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING

		Age Group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=38	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	20%	33%	8%	14%	27%	27%	0%
No	80	67	92	86	73	73	100
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: This table includes data from question #5 in the "Education" section of the questionnaire.

and the possibility of various personally debilitating factors may be suggested as explanations for these men's lack of employment.

Employment History and Attitudes

When asked to specify types of previous work experience (Table 37), the men listed an average of 3.4 different jobs.

The specific jobs listed by the men were grouped somewhat arbitrarily into the types of work listed in Table 37. For example, felling trees and working in a sawmill were both included under lumbering. However, this table does provide some valuable information about the men's employment patterns. Forty-six per cent of the men had

TABLE 36

TYPES OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING LISTED
(each item represents one person unless otherwise stated)

Age group						
Total group N=24	Under 20 N=1	20-29 N=1	30-39 N=4	40-49 N=10	50-59 N=8	60 & over N=0
	Auto- matic lathe	Iron work	Welding(2) Carpentry Sheet metal worker	Teaching Carpentry Drug tech- nology Electrical technology Upholstery Barber Clerical Auto mechanic(2) Aero-engine mechanic	Printing Stationery engineer Sheet metal worker Meterology Agriculture Electronics Mechanic Diesel mechanic	

TABLE 37

TYPES OF PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

Type of Work:	Total group N=100	Age Group					
		Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Casual labor	33%	--	31%	36%	37%	23%	75%
Lumbering	32	--	31	46	27	32	--
Agriculture	31	33	31	18	33	36	75
Construction	30	--	--	36	30	36	75
Railroad	26	--	39	32	20	18	25
Warehouse	25	--	15	36	17	36	--
Mining	24	--	15	25	30	18	50
Truck driving	17	--	23	18	20	14	--
Construction sub-trades	16	--	8	18	20	18	--
Cooking	15	--	8	11	23	18	--
Maintenance and supervision	11	--	8	--	23	14	--
Oilfield	10	--	8	7	17	9	--
Factory	9	33	--	11	10	9	--
Hunting & Fishing	8	--	8	4	7	18	--
Heavy equipment operation	8	--	8	11	7	9	--
Miscellaneous urban service	8	--	31	--	10	5	--
Utilities company	7	--	--	7	--	18	25

TABLE 37 (Continued)

Type of Work:	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Automotive repair	6	--	--	7	10	5	--
Clerical	5	--	8	7	3	5	--
Entertainment	5	--	15	7	3	--	--
Surveying	5	--	--	14	--	5	--
Welding	4	--	--	11	--	5	--
Deck hand	3	--	--	4	--	9	--
Sales	3	--	--	--	10	--	--
Teaching	1	--	--	--	3	--	--
Average number of jobs listed	3.4	0.7	2.8	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.4

experience in general construction or construction sub-trades. Casual labor, lumbering and agriculture were each listed by over thirty per cent of the men. Approximately a quarter of the men had worked in railroads, in warehouses or in mining operations.

Many of the job categories cannot be classified as predominantly urban or rural. However, it would appear that at least half of the men's jobs were located in an essentially rural setting as rural types of employment constituted over half of the jobs which could be evaluated as predominantly urban or rural.

The average number of jobs listed by age categories reaches a peak in the 30-39 year old group. This suggests that when the men reach 40 years of age they are no longer willing or able to accept the challenge of a new type of work and tend to rely heavily on past experience in order to obtain employment.

The men were asked to specify the periods (in weeks) during which they were employed in 1969. These data were compiled in Table 38 to show the rate of employment among these men for each month during 1969. Figure 1 portrays this data in a more graphic form.

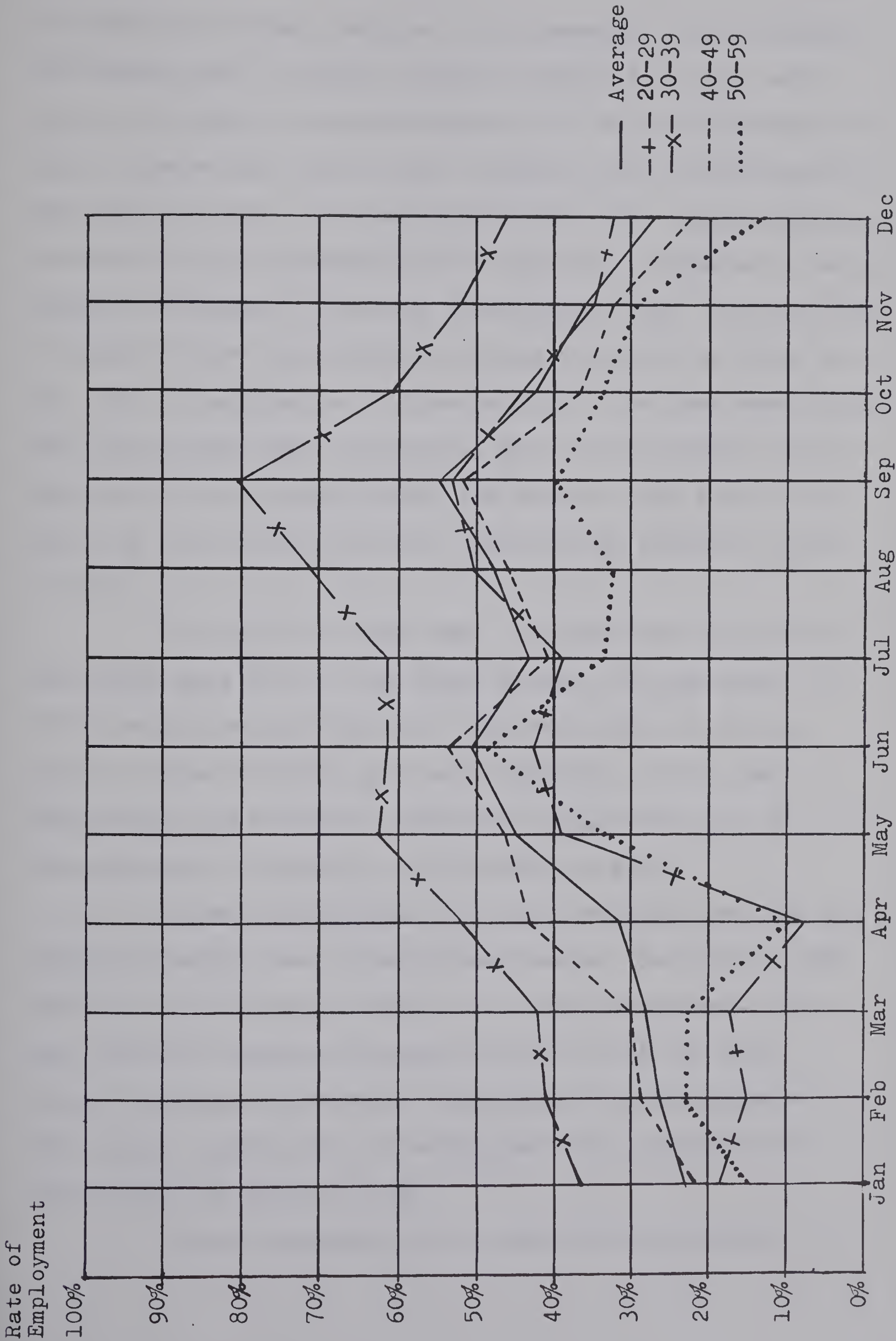
The rate of employment was calculated by dividing the number of man-weeks of employment (to the nearest full week) in each month by total possible man-weeks of employment. These figures were calculated on the basis of four weeks per month. The resulting figure was multiplied by 100 in order to express the rate of employment in percentage form.

The average rate of employment for the entire sample during 1969 was thirty-eight per cent. Peak employment occurred during the month of September with 54.8% of the men employed. The period of lowest employment occurred in January with only 22.7% of the men employed. A clearly seasonal cycle of employment is indicated. The rate of employment rises gradually from January to April and spurts during May to a peak in June. This is followed by a slump in July and a recovery to a new high in September. This is

RATE OF EMPLOYMENT

Age Group	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly ave.
Under 20	--	--	--	8.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	22.9
20-29	19.2	15.4	17.3	7.7	38.5	42.4	38.5	50	53.9	44.3	34.6	32.7	32.9
30-39	36.6	40.2	42.0	52.6	63.4	61.5	61.5	71.5	80.3	60.7	52.6	46.4	54.9
40-49	22.5	28.3	30	43.4	46.6	53.3	40.8	45.7	51.6	36.7	32.5	22.5	37.8
50-59	14.8	22.7	22.7	9.1	33	48.9	33	31.8	39.8	33	29.6	13.6	27.7
60 & Over	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Average for total group	22.7	26.8	28	31	45	50.5	42.8	48.3	54.8	42	36.5	28	28

RATE OF EMPLOYMENT
DURING 1969



followed by a steady decline to the seasonal low in January. The graph shows a similar trend for each of the age categories throughout the year except for a major difference in April between the men in their twenties and fifties and the men aged 30 to 49. It would appear that the spring breakup produces a major upheaval in the employment scene as a large number of seasonal jobs come to an abrupt end. At this time a number of new opportunities become available to those who are able to capitalize on them quickly. The less experienced and less robust men consequently drop to the lowest employment rate of any group during the year at this time (7.7% and 9.1% for the men in their twenties and fifties respectively).

It is also evident that the transient men work in the lower paid jobs in the labor market. On the basis of thirty-eight per cent rate of employment and an average earned income of \$1522 per year (Table 23) even a one hundred per cent rate of employment would result in an average annual income of only \$4,000 per year.

As may be expected, the 30-39 year old men had the highest average rate of employment during the year (54.9%). The men over 60 had no periods of steady employment. The men under 20 showed an average rate of 22.9% but this figure is based on only one respondent from this group. The second highest rate of employment was enjoyed by the 40-49 year old group (37.8%).

Further analysis of the above data revealed a

significant number of men who had no periods of steady employment.

Table 39 shows that thirty-two per cent of the men listed no "steady" employment. However, only twelve per cent stated that they had not worked at all. The percentage of men with no steady employment decreases steadily until the age of 60. It seems significant that out of a group of 32 chronically unemployed men, 24 are below the age of 50.

Job mobility and stability of the various age groups was calculated on the basis of average number of regular jobs held during 1969 and average length of employment per job (Table 40).

The entire sample held an average of 1.6 jobs during the year. Only the men in their thirties held a higher average number of jobs. This indicates greater facility in moving from one job to another.

The average length of time spent on one job was 2.9 months. The men between 30 and 50 years of age appeared more stable in this regard than the average. The high figure for the under 20 group must again be considered in relation to the small size of the sample. In general, the problem of short term employment appears to be a crucial part of the transient men's difficulties.

In order to explore further the reasons for their employment problems the men were asked to state their job preferences.

A comparison of Table 37 with the preference stated

TABLE 39

PERCENTAGE OF MEN LISTING NO PERIODS OF
REGULAR EMPLOYMENT DURING 1969

		Age group					
	Total group N=32	Under 20 N=2	20-29 N=6	30-39 N=9	40-49 N=7	50-59 N=4	60 & over N=4
Casual work only	13%	--	23%	11%	13%	9%	25%
No work	12	67	--	7	10	9	75
No answer	7	--	23	14	--	--	--
Total	32%	67%	46%	32%	23%	18%	100%

TABLE 40

AVERAGE * NUMBER AND DURATION OF REGULAR JOBS
HELD IN 1969

		Age group					
	Total group N=68	Under 20 N=1	20-29 N=7	30-39 N=9	40-49 N=23	50-59 N=18	60 & over N=0
Average number of jobs	1.6	0.3	1.6	2.1	15.	1.6	--
Average duration of jobs	2.9mo	9 mo	2.6mo	3.3mo	3.3mo	2 mo	--

*Calculated on the basis of all the men in each group including those with no regular employment.

TABLE 41

TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED

		Total group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Construction sub- trades	13%	33%	15%	14%	10%	9%	25%
Railroad	9	--	15	7	7	14	--
Cooking	9	--	8	7	10	14	--
Construction (labor)	7	--	--	14	3	5	25
Maintenance and supervision	7	--	--	--	3	23	25
Agriculture	6	--	15	11	--	5	--
Lumbering	5	--	8	7	3	5	--
Oilfield	5	--	8	4	7	5	--
Mining	4	--	--	11	3	--	--
Factory	4	33	--	4	7	--	--
Miscellaneous urban service	4	--	--	4	7	5	--
Warehouse	3	--	--	--	10	--	--
Equipment operator	3	--	--	4	3	5	--
Labor	3	--	8	4	3	--	--
Mechanic	3	--	--	--	10	--	--
Other	12	33	15	14	7	9	25

TABLE 41 (Continued)

Type of Work:	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
No preference	6	33	15	--	7	5	--
No answer	7	--	15	4	3	9	25
Totals *	100%	133%	110%	110%	100%	100%	100%

* Some of the totals are greater than 100% because some of the men gave more than one response.

in Table 41 suggests that most of the men listed a preference for a job which they had done at some time. The most frequent choices included construction sub-trades and general construction work, railroads, cooking, maintenance, agriculture, lumbering and oil field jobs. These choices together with the responses indicating no preference accounted for approximately two thirds of the men. This suggests that the men are quite content with the types of work available to them although this does not necessarily imply a corresponding degree of satisfaction obtained from these jobs. The men were also asked to state their most recent type of employment (Table 42).

The jobs most recently worked at included railroads, construction and related sub-trades, agriculture, lumbering, warehouse, oil field, truck driving and maintenance work. These responses accounted for sixty-nine per cent of the total. Only warehouse work and truck driving were not included in the seven most frequently preferred occupations.

TABLE 42

MOST RECENT TYPE OF REGULAR EMPLOYMENT

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Railroad	15%	--	15%	14%	17%	18%	--
Agriculture	11	33	8	7	3	18	50
Lumbering	9	--	15	18	3	5	--
Construction	8	--	8	11	7	5	25
Warehouse	6	--	8	7	10	--	--
Oil companies	6	--	15	7	3	5	--
Truck driver	5	--	--	4	13	--	--
Maintenance and supervision	5	--	--	--	7	14	--
Construction sub- trades	4	--	--	4	7	5	--
Cooking	4	--	8	--	7	5	--
Mechanic	4	--	--	--	10	5	--
Mining	3	--	--	4	3	--	25
Factory	3	33	--	7	--	--	--
Other	8	--	8	11	7	14	--
No answer	8	33	15	7	3	9	--
Total	100%	99%	100%	101%	100%	103%	100%

The data from Tables 37, 41 and 42 were examined further to provide more accurate comparisons. Table 43 shows how many men stated a preference for some type of work which they had done in the past.

Only fifteen per cent of the men wished to obtain employment different from that which they had already engaged in. The greatest discontent with the types of jobs held in the past was evidenced by the men under 30 years of age.

Table 44 shows how many men preferred the job they had most recently had. Exactly one half of the men responding had most recently worked in the job which they preferred. However, it may be equally relevant to say that half the men stated a preference for the most recent job they happened to have.

The final question in this section of the study explored the men's reasons for leaving their last job (Table 45).

Forty-seven per cent of the men stated that they had been laid off. Over half of these lay-offs results directly from the temporary or seasonal nature of the job.

An additional forty-four per cent of the men reported that they had quit their last job. One third of these men stated that they had quit because of ill health or drinking problems. Almost one half of this group listed discontent with the job as their reason for quitting. The reasons given included: poor working conditions, poor wages,

TABLE 45
REASON FOR LEAVING LAST JOB

Total group			Age group					
Total N=100	Sub total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=38	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4	
LAI D OFF (Totals) 47%		33%	15%	54%	50%	46%	100%	
Temporary job --	16	--	--	25	20	5	50	
Seasonal employ- ment --	12	--	15	14	7	14	25	
Failure or relo- cation of business --	7	--	--	4	10	14	--	
Manage- ment problems --	2	--	--	4	3	--	--	
Other (Com pensation refused coverage --	1	--	--	--	--	--	25	
Not specified --	9	33	--	7	10	14	--	
QUIT (Totals) 44%		33%	62%	39%	50%	41%	--	
Accident illness --	9	--	8	4	13	14	--	
Poor work condition --	7	--	23	4	7	5	--	
Drinking problem --	6	--	8	4	7	9	--	

TABLE 45 (Continued)

	Total N=100	Sub Total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Poor wages --		4	--	--	7	3	5	--
Person- ality clash --		4	--	--	7	7	--	--
Personal reasons --		4	33	--	4	3	5	--
Lack of interest --		4	--	23	4	--	--	--
Not happy with job --		2	--	--	--	3	5	--
Own busi- ness failed --		2	--	--	--	7	--	--
Not specified--		2	--	--	7	--	--	--
FIRED (Totals) 4%			--	8%	4%	--	9%	--
Drinking --		2	--	--	--	--	9	--
Failed appren- ticeship exam --		1	--	--	4	--	--	--
Not speci- fied --		1	--	8	--	--	--	--
NO ANSWER 5%			33%	15%	4%	--	5%	--
Total 100%		100%	99%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%

personality clashes, lack of interest and general unhappiness with the job. Only four per cent of the men admitted to being fired from their last job. Drinking accounted for half of these.

A comparison of the various age groups reveals several interesting differences. The 20-29 year old men are much more prepared to quit a job than are the other groups. They also get fired relatively often and consequently are seldom laid off. Forty-six per cent of this group quit their last job because of dissatisfaction with working conditions or through lack of interest.

The men in their thirties tend to work at temporary or seasonal jobs and thirty-nine per cent of this group were laid off simply because the job had ended. Three quarters of the men in their sixties had last worked at a temporary or seasonal job.

Summary

It is clear from the data presented in this chapter that unemployment is a major problem for the transient men. They tend to obtain only temporary, seasonal employment in relatively unskilled jobs. A large number of chronically unemployed men also contribute to a very low rate of employment for the total group.

CHAPTER VIII

EDUCATION

The men in the study were asked several questions about their educational background and aspirations. These questions were concerned with the level of education obtained, attitudes toward education and location of their most recent schooling.

Educational Background

Educational attainment ranged from no formal education to a university degree.

Table 46 reveals that the average grade completed was 8.1 years. This figure does not appear to distinguish these men significantly from the general population of men in low-skill jobs (The Homeless Man on Skid Row, 1961, p. 16). In terms of eligibility for vocational training programs, it is interesting to note that thirty per cent of the men had less than grade eight education and twenty-nine per cent had grade ten or more. Of the entire sample of 100 men only one had indicated that he had received any academic upgrading since leaving school.

The men showed a steady decline in educational level with increasing age except for a sharply lower level in the 40-49 year old group. A possible explanation for this discrepancy may be found in the fact that most of the men in this group were leaving school just prior to and during the Second World War.

The average age at leaving school was found to be 15.3

TABLE 46

LAST GRADE COMPLETED IN SCHOOL

Last grade completed																		
Age Group	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	over 12	UD	NA	Total	average grade
Under 20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	--	--	67	--	--	--	--	100%	10
20-29	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	8	46	15	--	15	--	--	--	--	99%	9.7
30-39	--	--	--	--	--	7	11	4	36	11	11	11	11	--	--	--	102%	8.7
40-49*	--	--	3	--	13	--	13	3	20	10	13	13	7	--	3	--	98%	5.6
50-59	--	--	--	5	5	9	5	14	32	--	14	5	--	5	--	9	103%	7.7
60 & over	25	--	--	25	25	--	--	--	--	25	--	--	--	--	--	--	100%	4
Total group	1%	--	1%	2%	6%	4%	10%	6%	30%	9%	10%	12%	5%	1%	1%	2%	100%	8.1

* Only one person (in this group) listed upgrading.

Note: UD - University Degree
NA - No answer

years (Table 47). It is interesting to note that of the men under forty years of age, the men in their thirties stayed in school longest and achieved the lowest average grade while the men in their twenties achieved the highest educational level in proportion to the time spent in school.

The men were also asked where they had completed their education (Table 48).

Thirty per cent of the men had completed their education in Alberta. A total of forty-five per cent came from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. In comparison, a very low number (four per cent) were educated in British Columbia. The low percentage of men educated in other countries (five per cent) emphasizes the fact that the men are mostly Canadians of long standing.

When asked for their reasons for leaving school the men gave a variety of answers. Table 49 shows that only four per cent of the men stated that they had completed their education and only one man indicated that he had gone on to further academic training upon leaving school.

The largest number of men (thirty-nine per cent) had "dropped out" primarily because they wanted a job. An additional thirty per cent had dropped out of school because of personal and home centered problems together with negative attitudes toward school. The desire to work appears to have been the major reason for dropping out for the older men (over forty years of age) while personal, home and attitudinal problems were more common reasons among the younger men.

TABLE 47

AGE AT LEAVING SCHOOL

Age at leaving													
Age Group	No school	12*	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20 & over	No Ans.	Total	Average Age
Under 20	--	--	--	--	--	--	33%	67%	--	--	--	100%	17.7
20-29	--	--	8	8	31	31	15	8	--	--	--	101%	15.6
30-39	--	4	11	11	14	32	7	11	7	4	--	101%	18.8
40-49	--	--	17	20	27	17	10	10	--	--	--	101%	15.1
50-59	--	9	9	18	27	9	5	5	5	5	9	101%	15
60 & over	25	25	--	--	50	--	--	--	--	--	--	100%	10.5
Total group	1%	4%	11%	14%	24%	20%	9%	10%	3%	2%	2%	100%	15.3

* None of the men stated that they had left school before the age of twelve.

TABLE 48

WHERE EDUCATION WAS COMPLETED

Total group			Age group					
	Total N=100	Sub Total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Foreign country	5%	--	--	8%	4%	3%	9%	--
Maritimes	9%	--	--	--	14	13	5	--
Quebec	3	--	--	--	4	--	9	--
Ontario	17	--	33	23	18	17	14	--
Manitoba	13	--	--	15	21	7	9	25
Sask	15	--	--	8	11	20	18	25
B. C.	4	--	--	--	4	7	5	--
N.W.T. & Yukon	2	--	--	8	4	--	--	--
Alberta	30	--	67	39	21	33	27	25
Edmonton	--	9%	--	8%	7%	17%	5%	--
Edmonton area	--	8	67	8	4	7	5	25
Northern Alberta	--	5	--	15	7	3	--	--
Southern Alberta	--	8	--	8	4	7	18	--
No answer	2	--	--	--	--	--	5	25
Total	100%	--	100%	101%	101%	100%	101%	100%

TABLE 49
REASONS FOR LEAVING SCHOOL

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
To go to work	39%	33%	15%	29%	60%	41%	25%
Home & personal problems	19	67	23	29	--	27	--
Negative at- titude	11	--	23	14	7	5	25
To work at home	9	--	--	7	20	--	25
Lack of ability	7	--	15	7	7	5	--
Completed school program	4	--	8	7	--	5	--
Lack of op- portunity	3	--	--	--	3	9	--
Entered armed forces	3	--	8	4	3	--	--
Went on to fur- ther training	1	--	--	4	--	--	--
No answer	4	--	8	--	--	9	25
Total	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%

Desire for Further Education

The men's attitude toward further education was also explored. Tables 50 and 51 present data concerning the percentage of men wanting more education and the type of education desired by them.

TABLE 50

PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO WANT MORE EDUCATION

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	47%	100%	54%	57%	47%	27%	25%
No	50	--	31	43	53	68	75
No answer	3	--	15	--	--	5	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Although forty-seven per cent of the men indicated a desire for further education, over half of these (twenty-five per cent of the total) were either not able to specify what kind of education they wanted or were referring to the desire for specific job skills which could probably be obtained through on-the-job training.

Thirty-one responses appeared to indicate a desire for a reasonably specific type of vocational or academic education. These responses appear under the following headings in Table 51:

TABLE 51

TYPE OF FURTHER EDUCATION DESIRED

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=4	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Academic	7%	--	15%	4%	13%	--	--
Bookkeeping	2	--	8	4	--	--	--
Construction sub-trades	4	67	--	4	--	5	--
Mechanics	8	--	8	11	10	5	--
Welding	3	--	8	7	--	--	--
Cooking	2	--	--	--	3	5	--
Specific job skills	11	--	15	11	17	5	--
General vocational	3	33	--	7	--	---	--
Not specified	11	33	23	11	3	5	50
Other *	8	--	--	7	17	5	--

Average number of
responses for
entire group ** 0.59 1.33 0.77 0.64 0.63 0.27 0.5

* Includes one each of: broadcasting, sign painting, meteorology, counseling, barbering, painting, mining and landscaping.

** Total per cent of men responding is the same as the percentage answering "yes" in Table 50.

academic, bookkeeping, construction sub-trades, mechanics, welding, and cooking. Also included are five of the eight responses listed under "other".

Summary

The limited education of these men must be viewed as one factor in their apparent inability to establish a more productive way of life. However, it should be noted that a number of men want further education and seem unable to obtain it. In addition, it has been noted that their educational level is fairly consistent with that of steadily employed men in unskilled jobs. Accordingly, other factors must be explored as well if the transient men's problems are to be fully understood.

CHAPTER IX

LEGAL

A brief section was included in the study dealing with the men's involvement with the law. The number and nature of their convictions were recorded as well as the amount of time served in prison and the extent to which they had obtained legal representation. Because many of the answers, especially in regard to drunkenness, were rather vague, the accuracy of this data is open to some question.

Criminal Convictions

Eighty per cent of the men stated that they had been convicted of at least one offence each (Table 52). Table 53 shows the types of charges on which the men have been convicted. For the men who have been convicted of an offence, the average number of different convictions is 1.9 (repeated convictions on the same charge are not included).

Sixty-six per cent of the men had been convicted of drunkenness at some time. Thirty-eight per cent were convicted of some form of theft. In comparison, only twelve per cent had been convicted of assault and sixteen per cent had been convicted of vagrancy. The highest percentage of men involved in theft were between 30 and 49 years of age. However, the men in their sixties and in their twenties had the highest rate of convictions for drunkenness.

Although eighty per cent of the men had been convicted

TABLE 52
PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED
OF AN OFFENCE

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	80%	33%	92%	79%	83%	73%	100%
No	19	67	8	21	17	23	--
No answer	1	--	--	--	--	5	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%

of at least one offence, only fifty-two per cent stated that they had spent time in prison (Table 54). The latter figure is very close to the number of men convicted of offences other than alcohol-related offences or vagrancy. It would appear that most of the time spent in prison was for offences other than alcoholism or vagrancy or that the men simply did not consider brief incarceration for drunkenness as time in prison.

Except for the youngest age group there is relatively little variation among the age groups in per cent of men convicted of crimes of theft or violence. This suggests that approximately one half of the transient men comprise a fairly consistent criminal subgroup. The average amount of

TABLE 53

NATURE OF THE CHARGE ON WHICH THE MEN
HAVE BEEN CONVICTED

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Drunkenness	66%	--	77%	61%	67%	68%	100%
Vagrancy	16	--	39	14	20	5	--
Theft over \$50	13	--	8	21	10	14	--
Theft under \$50	10	--	8	7	13	9	25
Assault	12	--	8	21	10	9	--
Breaking & entering	6	33	--	11	7	--	--
OTHER CHARGES:*							
Alcohol	12	--	23	--	10	27	--
Theft	9	--	15	7	13	5	--
Traffic	4	--	8	4	3	5	--
Habitual crim- inal	1	--	--	4	--	--	--
Average number of different types of charges on which the men have been convicted (for en- tire group)	1.49	.33	1.86	1.49	1.54	1.41	1.25

* Includes a variety of convictions related to the sub-headings listed, not including the specific charges listed above, e.g. illegal possession of liquor, fraud, etc.

TABLE 54
AMOUNT OF TIME SERVED IN PRISON

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Per cent of men who have served time	52%	33%	54%	54%	57%	46%	50%
Average length of time served*	18.9mo	9 mo	4.4mo	30.8mo	19 mo	9.6mo	31.5mo

*Calculated only for those who have served time - not for the entire group.

time served was 18.9 months. The men who served the most time in prison tended to be over 60, or in their thirties.

The above data were calculated in terms of the average number of convictions per individual admitting to some conviction and are presented in Table 55.

These figures suggest the presence of a fairly small group of "hard core" criminals in the 30-49 year old range as the greatest multiplicity of convictions exists among these men. Chronic theft was particularly evident among twenty-three per cent of the 40-49 year olds (see table 53) who admitted to an average of at least four convictions each. The most chronic drunkenness offenders tended to be over 30 years of age.

TABLE 55
AVERAGE* NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS
PER INDIVIDUAL

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=20	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Theft under \$50	2.5	--	1	1.5	4.6	1	1
Theft over \$50	1.7	-	1	1	4	1	--
Breaking & entering	1.8	1	--	2	2	--	--
Assault	3.3	--	1	4	4	1.5	--
Vagrancy	2.7	--	1	2.6	4.3	2	--
Drunkenness	10.0	--	4.8	12.9	8.9	11.3	12

* Includes only those convicted of the offence at some time.
Not total group.

Legal Representation

Table 56 shows that only ten per cent of the men had been represented by a lawyer at any time although fifty-two per cent of the men had been sentenced to prison for extended periods of time (see Table 54) many of them on the basis of several convictions.

Summary

It seems that most of the transient men tend to run afoul of the law. Their most frequent offences are drunkenness, followed by theft. Approximately one half of the men

TABLE 56
PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO WERE REPRESENTED
BY A LAWYER

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	10%	--	15%	14%	7%	9%	--
No	70	33	77	64	77	64	100
Not applicable	20	67	8	21	17	28	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	99%	101%	101%	100%

account for all of the convictions other than for drunkenness. Of these, a rather small group of hard core criminals in the 30-49 year age range appear to account for most of the repeated convictions.

Over one half of the men have spent time in jail. However, it should be noted that only ten per cent of the men had been represented by a lawyer at any time. This suggests that the transient man's legal rights are not ensured adequately.

CHAPTER X

MOBILITY

A lengthy section of the research questionnaire was devoted to the nature and extent of the transient men's mobility. Special emphasis was placed on the amount of time the men had spent in Edmonton and their reasons for coming to Edmonton. Other questions were designed to discover their general patterns of mobility and attitudes affecting their transient way of life. Many of their answers concerning length of residence in any one place were rather imprecise. However, their answers appeared to reflect the most accurate estimates they were able to make.

Present Pattern of Residence

When asked how long they had been living in Edmonton, the men indicated a surprisingly long period of residence (Table 57).

TABLE 57

AVERAGE LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN EDMONTON

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Average length of residence	9.4yr	1mo	5.5yr	6.8yr	12.4yr	11.6yr	12.5yr

Although these figures do not reveal the extent of deviation from the norm, it is significant that the average "transient" man has lived in this city for 9.4 years. The youngest men tended to be the most recent arrivals. The average length of residence reached a plateau at the age of 40.

These figures are borne out by Table 58 which shows the average duration of the most recent continuous residence in Edmonton.

TABLE 58
AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME SINCE LAST
RETURN TO EDMONTON

Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
1 mo.	6 mo.	7 mo	6 yr.	5 yr. 10 mo.	11 yr 8 mo.

The men under 40 years of age appear to be the most mobile in terms of movement outside Edmonton. However, a comparison of Tables 57 and 58 suggests that the men between 40 and 59 years of age have moved about to a significant extent. The extent of their movement between residences in the city is discussed later in this chapter. The men's comments during the interviews support the hypothesis that many of the men use Edmonton as a "home base" while continuing to move from place to place in search of, or in response

to employment opportunities. However, it must be concluded that the amount of such movement declines rapidly after the age of 40.

The men were asked to specify the place from which they had most recently come.(Table 59).

The largest group of men (forty-six per cent) had come to Edmonton from some point in Alberta. The 20 and 39 year age groups had the highest percentage of men coming from outside Alberta. British Columbia and the North West Territories accounted for an additional twenty-nine per cent of the men. This figure compares with six per cent of the men educated in these two areas. It may be concluded that most of these men came from homes in other parts of Canada but had most recently worked in the areas to the west and north of Alberta. Significantly, the percentage of men coming from these areas and from Northern Alberta declines drastically from the 20-29 year age group to the 50-59 year age group (from seventy-seven per cent to twenty-four per cent). None of the small group of men from the under 20 and the 60 and over groups came to Edmonton from the above mentioned areas (It appeared that most of the men coming from British Columbia had been working in the Northern part of that province. Therefore, the above figures seem to represent the men engaged in Northern employment).

Further information was obtained by asking the men how much time they had spent in Edmonton and in Alberta

TABLE 59
PLACES FROM WHICH THE MEN CAME

Total group			Age group					
Total N=100	Sub Total		Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Foreign country 3%	--		--	--	7%	3%	--	--
Maritimes 1	--		--	--	--	3	--	--
Quebec 1	--		--	--	4	--	--	--
Ontario 6	--		33	--	7	3	9	--
Manitoba 5	--		--	8	7	--	9	--
Sask. 6	--		--	--	--	10	9	25
B. C. 19	--		--	23	36	17	5	--
N.W.T. & Yukon 10	--		--	23	4	10	14	--
Alberta 46	--		67	39	36	53	46	75
Edmonton (since birth) --	3		--	--	--	7	5	--
Edmonton area --	12		67	--	4	20	5	50
Northern Alberta --	9		--	31	7	7	5	--
Southern Alberta --	22		--	8	25	20	32	25
No answer 3	--		--	8	--	--	9	--
Total 100%			100%	101%	101%	99%	100%	100%

in the past year and in the past three years (Table 60).

Only twelve per cent of the men had been in Edmonton less than one month. Two thirds of these recent arrivals had come from outside Alberta. Most of these men were under 40 years of age. Sixty-two per cent of the men had been in Edmonton for more than six months in the previous year and seventy-two per cent had been in Alberta for more than half of the previous year.

When the time under consideration was extended to three years (Table 61) sixty-nine per cent of the men claimed more than one year's residence in Edmonton and seventy-seven per cent claimed more than one year's residence in Alberta. The men over 40 years of age appear to have spent almost all of their Alberta residency in Edmonton. The younger men again revealed a higher rate of mobility within the province. Of the twenty-five per cent who had been in Edmonton less than three months (Table 60) almost three quarters (eighteen per cent) had apparently not lived in Edmonton at any other time in the past three years (Table 61). The corresponding figures for Alberta are fourteen per cent and ten per cent. This suggests that a relatively small group of men actually fit the popular conception of transient men as newly arrived, short term residents. The majority of the men, however, appear to use Edmonton as a relatively stable "home base" around which their mobility is centered. The extent of their mobility, even within this pattern tends to decrease sharply after the age of 40.

TIME SPENT IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS IN EDMONTON AND IN ALBERTA

		Age group									
Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13		30-39 N=28		40-49 N=30		50-59 N=22		60 & over N=4	
		Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta
1-7 days	5% 3%	--	--	15%	8%	11%	7%	--	--	--	--
8-30 days	7 5	67	--	--	--	11	11	3	5	--	5
1-3 mths	13 6	33	33	15	8	21	7	10	3	--	5
4-6 mths	12 12	--	--	23	23	14	18	10	10	--	5
7-9 mths	15 8	--	--	8	--	7	11	30	10	--	9
10-12 mths	46 64	--	67	31	54	32	43	47	73	100	77
No answer	2 2	--	--	8	8	4	4	--	--	--	--
Total	100% 100%	100%	99%	99%	101%	100%	101%	100%	99%	101%	100%

TABLE 61

TIME SPENT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS IN EDMONTON AND IN ALBERTA

Age group													
Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3		20-29 N=13		30-39 N=28		40-49 N=30		50-59 N=22		60 & over N=4		
	Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta	Edm	Alta	
Under 1 month	5%	4%	--	--	8%	8%	11%	7%	--	5%	--	5%	
1 month	4	2	67	--	--	--	4	4	3	--	--	--	
2-3 mo	9	4	33	33	15	--	14	7	3	--	--	--	
3-6 mo	5	4	--	--	8	8	11	7	3	--	--	--	
7-12 mo	6	7	--	--	--	--	11	14	7	5	--	5	
*over 1 year	69	77	--	67	62	77	46	57	80	91	100	91	
No answer	2	2	--	--	8	8	4	4	--	--	--	--	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	101%	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	

* another category of 2-3 years would have been very useful in view of the large percentage in the "over one year category".

A common concern about the danger of attracting large numbers of transients by providing Welfare services was implied by T. Garvin (A Dream of Things 1968, p. 2). An attempt was made to determine the extent to which the availability of welfare services was seen by the men as a reason for coming to Edmonton (Table 62).

Desire for employment appears to be the major factor causing the transient men's mobility. Forty per cent of the men said they had come to Edmonton because they had heard of a job or were hoping to find a job. An additional thirty-four per cent considered Edmonton their home or came because they had relatives here. Only three per cent, all over the age of fifty, indicated that the availability of welfare agencies had influenced their decision to come to Edmonton. Eighteen per cent of the men indicated that they had arrived in Edmonton through sheer chance or idle curiosity.

Previous Location of Residence

In order to help establish the sample's conformity to our definition of transience (p.44) the men were asked if they had a permanent home (Table 63).

Surprisingly, seventeen per cent of the men including men from all age groups below 60, replied affirmatively.

However, further analysis of these men's questionnaires revealed that they had defined the term "permanent home" rather loosely (Table 64).

Of the seventeen men claiming a permanent home seven

TABLE 62

REASONS FOR COMING TO EDMONTON

Total group			Age group					
	Total N=100	Sub total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Heard of a job	21%	--	67%	15%	32%	7%	23%	25%
Had rela- tives here	13	--	33	31	11	13	5	--
Welfare agencies available	3	--	--	--	--	--	9	25
Lost job up North	4	--	--	--	4	7	5	--
Consider Edmonton to be home	21	--	--	23	7	27	36	--
Wanted to see this city	11	--	--	8	11	10	18	--
Other	39	--	33	39	46	37	27	75
Looking for work	--	19	33	8	25	17	18	25
Chance	--	7	--	8	7	7	5	25
Personal business	---	3	--	8	4	3	--	--
Came with a friend	--	3	--	15	-	3	--	--
Good place to live	--	3	--	--	7	3	--	--

TABLE 64

LOCATION AND EXPLANATION OF PERMANENT
HOMES CLAIMED

Location		
In Edmonton	Private rented room	6
	Hotel room	1
	Single Men's Hostel	1
Elsewhere in Alberta	Do not plan to return home	2
	Left permanent home at least six years ago	1
	Indian reservation - not own home	1
Outside Alberta	Have left home - claim to be transient	2
	Parent's home - not own home	1
	Left home five years ago	1
	Indian reservation - seldom lives there	1
Total		17

were referring to a rented room, one was referring to the Single Men's Hostel, seven were not planning to return home or had left at least five years previously, and two were referring to an Indian Reservation rather than an actual home of their own. It was concluded, therefore, that very few, if any, of these men actually had a permanent home according to the generally accepted definition of the term. It

should be noted that data presented in Table 73 suggests that even the rented rooms do not tend to be permanent. However, the implied attitudes of the men toward the concept of a permanent home are important to our understanding of these men.

Although location of the last permanent home was not requested on the questionnaire, a majority of the men provided this information. This is presented in Table 65.

Even if the misleading answers (Table 64) are deducted from the totals in this table, the largest group of men listed Alberta as the location of their last permanent home. A relatively large disparity exists between the number of men completing their education in Manitoba or Saskatchewan, and the number listing these provinces as their last permanent home. This may suggest that many of the men originally living in these provinces moved to another part of Canada at a relatively early age and established some degree of stability in their new homes before becoming transient.

The men were also asked where they had lived the longest. The data was grouped by province (Table 66) although most of the men listed their longest period of residency within a particular city or rural area.

Thirty-seven per cent of the men had lived longest at some location in Alberta. Half of these had lived longest in Edmonton. Thirty-one per cent had experienced their most extended periods of stability in Ontario or Manitoba. Only nineteen per cent listed British Columbia

TABLE 65

LOCATION OF LAST* OR PRESENT
PERMANENT HOME

			Age Group					
	Total N=100	Sub Total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Maritimes	4%	--	--	--	4%	10%	--	--
Quebec	1	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Ontario	7	--	33	15	7	3	5	--
Manitoba	10	--	--	8	14	13	--	25
Sask.	4	--	--	--	--	7	5	25
B. C.	3	--	--	--	--	7	5	--
N.W.T. & Yukon	--	--	--	--	4	--	--	--
Alberta	32	--	67	31	25	33	36	25
Edmonton	--	16	--	8	11	23	23	--
Edmonton Area	--	5	67	8	4	3	--	--
Northern Alberta	--	3	--	15	4	--	--	--
Southern Alberta	--	8	--	--	7	7	14	25
No answer	38	--	--	46	46	27	46	25
Total	100%	--	100%	100%	100%	100%	102%	100%

* Although the questionnaire did not request location of last permanent home, this information was obtained verbally from a number of the men.

TABLE 66

LOCATION OF LONGEST SINGLE PERIOD OF RESIDENCE

			Age group					
	Total N=100	Sub total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Foreign country	3%	--	--	--	7%	--	5%	--
Maritimes	4	--	--	--	4	7	5	--
Quebec	3	--	--	--	4	3	5	--
Ontario	16	--	33	23	21	7	18	--
Manitoba	15	--	--	8	21	10	18	25
Sask	8	--	--	8	7	10	5	25
B. C.	11	--	--	8	7	17	14	--
N.W.T. & Yukon	2	--	--	8	4	--	--	--
Alberta	37	--	67	39	25	47	32	50
Edmonton	--	19	--	15	11	30	18	25
Edmonton area	--	4	67	8	--	3	--	--
Northern Alberta	--	4	--	15	7	--	--	--
Southern Alberta	--	10	--	--	7	13	14	25
No answer	1	--	--	8	--	--	--	--
Total	100%	--	100%	102%	100%	101%	102%	100%

or Saskatchewan. The comparison of these figures for Alberta's neighbouring provinces with the corresponding figures in Table 48 suggest the possibility that the men tend to move away from Saskatchewan after leaving school in order to obtain stable employment. British Columbia's and Alberta's general economic superiority may provide the reason for this apparent trend.

The data in Table 67 specifying the men's place of birth confirmed some of the findings presented previously.

These figures are very similar to the figures showing where the men had completed their education (Table 48). This suggests that the men tended to come from a relatively stable home, in terms of residence, and became transient only after leaving school and becoming independent.

In order to gain some understanding of the men's background with its implications for their adjustment to life in an urban skid row area, the men were asked in what type of environment they had been raised (Table 68).

Approximately equal numbers of the men had been raised in a city or on a farm. However, a majority of the men had a basically rural background. This may help to explain the concentration on rural employment and the men's difficulties in adjusting to an urban industrial way of life.

TABLE 67
PLACE OF BIRTH

			Age group					
	Total N=100	Sub total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Foreign country	7%	--	--	8%	11%	3%	5%	25%
Maritimes	8	--	--	--	11	13	5	--
Quebec	4	--	--	8	7	--	5	--
Ontario	16	--	33	15	18	13	18	--
Manitoba	15	--	--	8	18	17	14	25
Sask	14	--	--	15	11	13	18	25
B. C.	5	--	--	--	4	10	5	--
N.W.T. & Yukon	2	--	--	8	4	--	--	--
Alberta	27	--	67	39	18	30	32	25
Edmonton	--	9	--	--	23	13	9	--
Edmonton area	--	7	67	15	--	7	--	25
Northern Alberta	--	4	--	15	4	3	--	--
Southern Alberta	--	9	--	8	4	7	23	--
Total	100%	--	100%	101%	102%	99%	102%	100%

TABLE 68

TYPE OF LOCATION IN WHICH THE MEN WERE RAISED

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
City	36%	--	46%	39%	47%	23%	--
Farm	35	67	23	25	27	50	100
Bush country	9	--	15	4	17	5	--
Town	15	33	8	25	7	18	--
Reservation	5	--	8	7	3	5	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%

TABLE 69

PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES
TO BE TRANSIENT

[illegible]

Plans and Attitudes Concerning Mobility

The term "transient", although frequently applied to these men was not acceptable to many of the men in the study, Table 69 shows the men's response to the question: "Do you consider yourself a "transient man"?"

Only fifty-three per cent of the men stated that they considered themselves to be transient. However, the interviews revealed a number of the men were confused about the definition of transience. The men frequently indicated that the term had mainly negative connotations for them.

The men's attitudes toward their mobility was further explored by asking them if they planned to "settle down" in the future (Table 70).

A large majority of the men said that they plan to settle down some day. Interestingly, this number tended to decline with age. The most idealistic in this regard were the men under thirty. Only two of the 100 men (both over 60) said that they were already settled.

The men were also asked when they planned to settle down (Table 71).

The answers suggest that the men's plans to settle down are even more nebulous than the term itself. Although very few of the men questioned what was meant by settling down, only ten per cent of the men stipulated a fairly definite time when this would happen. However, on this question six per cent felt they were settled down.

TABLE 70
PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO PLAN TO SETTLE DOWN
SOME DAY

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	77%	100%	100%	75%	80%	68%	25%
No	16	--	--	18	20	18	25
No answer or do not know	5	--	--	7	--	14	--
"Is settled"	2	--	--	--	--	--	50
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Forty-three per cent of the men stated that they planned to settle down as soon as possible, or as soon as certain conditions had been met. It may be inferred that these men would welcome a program designed to help end their mobile, transient way of life.

Further implications for this suggestion were found in the men's choice of where they wanted to live (Table 72).

Fifty-six per cent stated where they plan to settle down. Thirty-four per cent of the total group chose Edmonton and an additional ten per cent chose other locations in Alberta. Twenty-five per cent of the men did not know where they would like to settle down. The fact that only

TABLE 71
WHEN THE MEN PLAN TO SETTLE DOWN

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Within one year	4%	--	--	4%	3%	9%	--
1 - 2 years	3	--	8	4	3	--	--
Over 2 years	3	--	8	7	--	--	--
As soon as possible	27	67	39	32	27	14	--
Do not know or no answer	23	33	46	32	10	18	--
Conditional	16	--	--	--	30	27	25
"Is settled"	6	--	--	21	20	23	
"Is settled"	6	--	--	--	7	9	50
Not applicable	18	--	--	21	20	23	25
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

twelve per cent had any plans for settling down elsewhere than in Albert emphasizes the necessity for the city and provincial governments to provide rehabilitative services to these men. It is obvious that the problem will not just go away. Most of the transient men are in Edmonton by choice and by choice intend to remain. In addition, there is little

TABLE 72
WHERE THE MEN PLAN TO SETTLE DOWN

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Edmonton	34%	33%	46%	14%	43%	32%	75%
Elsewhere in Alberta	10	--	15	18	7	5	--
Elsewhere in Canada	11	33	--	18	10	9	--
Foreign Country	1	--	--	4	--	--	--
"Do not know"	14	--	15	21	10	14	--
No answer	11	33	23	4	10	11	--
Not applicable	19	--	--	21	20	27	25
Total	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	98%	100%

indication that the aimless drifters will drift elsewhere unless forced to do so.

Present Pattern of Mobility

An important part of the men's mobility patterns was revealed in Table 73. These data were obtained from their lists of the locations at which they had lived in the past year.

Most of the movement of the men was within the city of Edmonton. The men lived in an average of 41 different

TABLE 73
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PLACES LIVED IN PAST
TWELVE MONTHS

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Percentage of valid responses	65%	100%	46%	64%	67%	68%	75%
In Edmonton	2.7	1.7	1.7	2.4	3.7	2.3	2.7
Elsewhere in Alberta	0.8	0.7	2.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.3
Outside Alberta	0.7	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.6	0.2	--
Total	4.1	2.7	4.7	4.3	4.9	3.2	3.0

(Average length of stay = 2.9 months, based on division of
twelve months by 4.1)

Places throughout the year. The 20-29 year old group lived at more places outside Edmonton than the other men did while the men in their forties moved about most within Edmonton. The men between 20 and 49 accounted for the greatest general mobility. It is interesting to note that the average length of stay in one location (2.9 months) is identical to the average length of employment per job (see Table 40).

A further breakdown of the above data was done to show the variation in the duration of periods of residence.

TABLE 74

LENGTH OF STAY IN VARIOUS PLACES DURING
PAST TWELVE MONTHS*

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Time categories:							
Under 1 week	33%	67%	31%	32%	50%	14%	--
1 - 2 weeks	32	67	46	54	17	18	--
2 - 3 weeks	17	--	39	14	23	--	25
3 wks - 1 month	52	--	15	50	93	36	--
1 - 2 months	54	33	31	64	57	46	100
2 - 3 months	37	--	23	39	43	46	--
3 - 4 months	18	--	31	36	20	18	--
4 - 5 months	19	--	23	14	18	25	19
5 - 6 months	29	--	23	32	30	32	25
6 - 9 months	15	--	15	11	20	14	25
9 - 12 months	18	100	--	18	17	18	25
Average number of responses	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.6	3.9	2.6	2.3

* Expressed in terms of per cent of men responding in each of the various time categories.

Table 74 includes all periods of residence listed by the men for the previous twelve months. The average number of places lived is lower than in Table 73, because thirty-five per cent of the men were unable to account for the entire year. The median length of stay is less than two months. Compared to the mean length of stay of 2.9 months (from Table 73), this reveals that a comparatively large number of the moves are made for a very short period of time. These shorter periods of residence are more typical of the younger men while the older men account for a larger number of the long periods of residence.

History of Service in the Armed Forces

The section on mobility was concluded with a brief survey of the men's military involvement (Table 75).

Forty-two per cent of the men said that they had served in the Armed Forces. Most of these men were between 40 and 59 years of age at the time of this study.

The dates of the men's military service were roughly categorized according to the war in which they had been involved.

Table 76 shows that the majority of the veterans had served in the armed forces during World War II. Only eleven per cent of the total group had served during the Korean War and only one man had enlisted after the Korean War. It seems safe to conclude that enlistment in the armed forces

TABLE 75

PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO HAVE SERVED
IN THE ARMED FORCES

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	42%	--	8%	21%	57%	77%	25%
No	57	100	85	79	43	23	75
No answer	1	--	8	--	--	--	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 76

TIME OF SERVICE IN ARMED FORCES

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
During World War II	31%	--	--	--	43%	77%	25%
During Korean War	11	--	--	21	13	5	--
Since Korean War	1	--	8	--	--	--	--
Total	43%	--	8%	21%	56%	82%	25%

is not seen as a viable alternative to transience and unemployment by the transient men themselves. It seems likely that a very large number of these men would not meet the requirements for enlistment in any case.

Summary

This chapter has presented a number of findings concerning the transient men's patterns of mobility. Most of the men appear to spend a great deal of time in Edmonton and move out of the city primarily for short periods of employment elsewhere. The search for employment appears to account for most of the men's mobility outside Edmonton. The men tend to move to centres of economic prosperity and opportunity and do not appear to consider the availability of welfare services as a major factor in their choice of location.

The men's greatest mobility occurs within the city and may reflect a number of social and economic problems. A majority of the men do not wish to continue their present mobile life style but very few appear to have any concrete plans for effecting the necessary changes.

As a result, the transient problem in Edmonton may be expected to grow with the city's economic growth unless positive action is taken. A basis for such action would seem to be recognition by the city and provincial governments of their responsibility to these sporadic but long term residents.

CHAPTER XI

SOCIAL

The involvement of the men in various social roles and relationships was also explored. As these men appear to be characterized by social alienation, it was considered important to explore the importance of various forms of social involvement to these men. The men's involvement with church and school have been discussed previously. Consequently, this section deals primarily with the men's home and family relations, involvement in organizations and personal relationships, and with their self concept with regard to their apparent social isolation.

Family Relationships

Although the transient men are generally considered to be single, Table 77 shows that a significant proportion had been married at some time.

One third of the men had experienced dissolution of their marriage through divorce or separation. Sixty per cent of the men had never married and only one man stated that he was still legally married. It should be noted that a different sample of transient men (Appendix B) contained a higher percentage of men who had never married. It appears significant that the research sample includes a higher percentage of men who live in private accommodation as well as a higher percentage of men who had been married at some

TABLE 77
MARITAL STATUS

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Married	1%	--	--	--	--	5%	--
Single	60	100	92	68	53	32	75
Separated	20	--	8	21	20	27	25
Divorced	13	--	--	11	20	18	--
Widowed	6	--	--	--	7	18	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

time. If residence in private accommodation is considered an indication of social stability, it may be hypothesized that the men who have been married at some time, even though they have failed, are a more stable group than the men who remained single. The constant decline in the number of bachelors from teenage to 60 years of age suggests that marriage breakdown is not isolated in any age group.

The significance of the marital breakdowns was explored in terms of numbers of children affected (Table 78).

Thirty-five per cent of the total group of men claimed to have an average of three children each. This means that, on the average, every transient man represents at least one child affected by the breakdown of these men's

TABLE 78
NUMBER OF MEN WHO HAVE CHILDREN

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	35%	--	--	36%	47%	46%	25%
No	59	100	92	50	50	55	75
No answer	6	--	8	14	3	--	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%
* Average number of children	3.0	--	--	3.3	2.6	3.1	5

* For those saying yes.

homes. The abrupt appearance in the 30-39 year old group of a substantial number of men claiming to have children indicates that most of the children were fathered when the men were in their thirties.

A further question revealed that most of the children are being cared for by their mother (Table 79).

Sixty per cent of the fathers said the mother of their children was looking after them. Thirty-one per cent of the fathers said their children had reached independence. Only six per cent of the fathers admitted that their children were being cared for directly by welfare agencies.

TABLE 79
WHO IS LOOKING AFTER THE CHILDREN*

		Age group					
	Total Sub group N=35	Under 20 N=0	20-29 N=0	30-39 N=10	40-49 N=14	50-59 N=10	60 & over N=1
Their mother	60%	--	--	100%	57%	30%	--
Relatives	3	--	--	--	7	--	--
Welfare	6	--	--	--	7	10	--
On their own	31	--	--	--	29	60	100
Total	100%	--	--	100%	100%	100%	100%

* Expressed in per cent of affirmative responses above.

However, this figure does not include the number of children or families supported financially through other welfare programs.

Only twenty-eight per cent of the fathers indicated that their children were residing in Alberta (Table 80).

One half of these twenty-eight per cent stated that their children are in Edmonton. Seventeen per cent of the fathers had lost track of their children's whereabouts. However, forty-nine per cent of them knew at least generally where their children were in other parts of Canada or another country. During the interviews a number of the men stated that they had come to Edmonton because they wished

TABLE 80
PRESENT RESIDENCE OF THE CHILDREN*

		Age group					
	Total group N=35	Under 20 N=0	20-29 N=0	30-39 N=10	40-49 N=14	50-59 N=10	60 & over N=1
Edmonton	14%	--	--	10%	21%	10%	--
Elsewhere in Alberta	14	--	--	10	21	10	--
Elsewhere in Canada	46	--	--	70	21	50	100
Foreign Country	3	--	--	--	7	--	--
"Do not know"	17	--	--	10	21	20	--
No answer	6	--	--	--	7	10	--
Total	100%	--	--	100%	98%	100%	100%

* Expressed in per cent of men who claim to have children.

to avoid contact with their former families. It is possible, therefore, that these men form a somewhat atypical subgroup among the general transient population in view of the suggestion that their mobility is not primarily linked with the search for employment (See Table 62).

A number of definitions of transience suggest that these men are totally isolated from their families. However, this was not found to be entirely true (Table 81).

Eighty-six per cent of the men said they knew of living relatives other than their children. Little

TABLE 81

PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO KNOW OF OTHER
LIVING RELATIONS

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	86%	100%	85%	89%	83%	82%	100%
No	13	--	8	11	17	18	--
No answer	1	--	8	--	--	--	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

discrepancy was found between the various age groups in this regard.

However, Table 82 suggests that few of the men had any consistent contact with these relatives.

Only thirty-three per cent had contact with their relatives on more than a yearly basis. Of the total group, fifty-two per cent had no contact with relatives at all or less than yearly contacts. A number of the men expressed the feeling that their present situation was a source of mutual embarrassment to themselves and their families.

TABLE 82
FREQUENCY OF CONTACT WITH RELATIVES

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Daily	3%	--	--	4%	7%	----	--
Weekly	10	--	39	--	7	14	--
Monthly	20	--	8	21	30	14	25
Yearly	15	33	8	21	7	14	50
Less than yearly	17	67	8	32	7	14	--
Never	21	--	23	11	27	27	25
Not applicable	14	--	15	11	17	18	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	102%	101%	100%

Social Relationships

The men were also asked to list any clubs or organizations of which they were a member (Table 83).

Only seventeen per cent of the men claimed membership in any organization. The men in their sixties and in their thirties, at opposite extremes in terms of mobility and employment rate, had the highest percentage of men claiming memberships in organizations.

The organizations listed by the men who claimed membership are presented in Table 84.

TABLE 83

PERCENTAGE OF MEN CLAIMING MEMBERSHIP
IN VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
None	81%	67%	85%	93%	80%	64%	100%
One	13	--	15	7	17	18	--
Two	2	33	--	--	3	--	--
Three	2	--	--	--	--	9	--
No answer	2	--	--	--	--	9	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

It is obvious that this list does not include all the organization memberships of the men. For example, of the total group at least fifty-five per cent of the men had been members of the Edmonton Day Centre for at least one year at the time of the study but only seven per cent listed membership in the Day Centre. Although forty-two per cent had served in the armed forces and are automatically qualified for membership in the Canadian Legion, only seven per cent listed this membership. It must be concluded, therefore, that the men do not feel very involved in the organizations to which they belong. In addition, it seems likely that they do not belong to very many organizations.

TABLE 84
SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONS LISTED

Name of Organization	Number of Member- ships
Edmonton Day Centre	7
Canadian Legion	7
Marion Centre Co-op Club	3
Alcoholics Anonymous	2
Marion Centre	1
Native Friendship Centre	1
Labour Union	1
C. N. I. B.	1
Community Club	1
Car club	1
Motorcycle Club	1
Total 11 Organizations	26

In order to explore the men's involvement in personal relationships, they were asked to state their present number of casual and close friends. The answers are, of course, highly subjective, but they provide some insights concerning the men's interpersonal relationships.

The data obtained from these questions are presented in several tables because the men gave verbally descriptive answers (e.g. many) in some instances and numerical answers

in others. The verbal answers are presented in Table 85.

TABLE 85

NUMBER OF FRIENDS CLAIMED BY THE MEN
(Includes Verbal Responses Only)

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
CASUAL FRIENDS							
none	11%	--	15%	11%	13%	9%	--
few	10	--	--	11	10	14	25
many	36	67	31	36	33	32	75
CLOSE FRIENDS							
none	18	--	15	18	13	23	50
few	9	33	--	11	10	9	--
many	8	--	15	11	7	--	25
CLOSE FRIENDS IN EDMONTON							
none	32	67	31	43	20	46	50
few	4	--	--	7	3	8	--
many	4	--	--	7	3	--	25
Average percen- tage of men responding to the question verbally	44%	56%	36%	52%	38%	39%	83%

An average of 44 men responded verbally (rather than numerically) to each question. Thirty-six of these said they had many casual friends but 18 had no close friends and 32 had no close friends in Edmonton.

A separate table was compiled to include the men who gave numerical rather than verbal responses (Table 86).

TABLE 86

AVERAGE NUMBER OF FRIENDS CLAIMED BY THE MEN
(Includes Numerical Responses Only)

			Age group					
	Total group N=100	Row N's	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=28	60 & over N=4
Casual friends	78	54	2	26	167	23	87	--
Close friends	12	83	3	8.5	31	6	4	1
Close friends in Edmonton	92	5	1	8.3	7	4	2	1
Average percentage of men whose res- ponses were used in calcu- lating the data	76%	76	67%	85%	71%	77%	77%	50%

The 30-39 year old men claimed the largest average number of casual friends and were followed by the men in their fifties. Only the youngest and oldest age groups claimed more close friends than casual friends. The other groups had a much larger circle of casual friends than of close friends. The 30-39 year old men appear to have a significantly greater number of close friends outside Edmonton than do the other groups.

The above average were inflated by several very high estimates. Therefore, the data were also calculated to show median numbers of friends claimed (Table 87).

TABLE 87

MEDIAN NUMBER OF FRIENDS CLAIMED BY THE MEN

		Age group					
	Total group* N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Casual friends	8	--	--	27	9	8	--
Close friends	4	--	5	4	5	2	--
Close friends in Edmonton	2	--	4	1	3	2	0
Average percentage of men who's responses were used in calculating the data	76%	67%	85%	81%	77%	77%	50%

* Data for total group were extrapolated from the data for sub-groups by age.

These figures suggest that most of the men have fewer than ten casual friends and no more than five close friends, of whom over half are in Edmonton.

In general, it appears that a large percentage of the men have very few meaningful interpersonal relationships. Of these a significant number are elsewhere than in Edmonton. This not only reflects the mobility of the men but may be one determining factor in the men's continuing pattern of mobility.

The final question in this section asked the men about the frequency of their feelings of loneliness (Table 88). Only twenty-two per cent of the men indicated that they were always or often lonely. However, thirty-one per cent of the men denied any feeling of loneliness. Since loneliness is considered by many to be an integral part of human existence, it appears that a large number of the transient men are forced to repress a part of their human experience in order to continue to function in the alienated situation in which they find themselves. This view was supported by some of the men who commented during the interviews that feeling lonely was a luxury which they could not afford. It is also interesting to note that the largest number of "seldom" or "never" responses were given by men over 50 years of age.

Summary

The data presented in this chapter suggest that the

TABLE 88

FREQUENCY OF THE MEN'S FEELINGS OF LONELINESS

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Always	9%	33%	8%	4%	7%	18%	--
Often	13	--	23	--	30	5	--
Sometimes	31	33	15	50	30	18	25
Seldom	15	33	15	14	10	18	25
Never	31	--	31	32	23	41	50
No answer	--	8	--	--	--	--	--
Total	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

transient men are indeed alienated from society. A majority of the men had never married and of the remainder a large majority had experienced dissolution of their marriage. The men appear to have very little contact with their children or other relatives. In addition, the men seem to have very little involvement with organizations that is meaningful to themselves. Most of the men stated that they had very few friends and of these, most were considered only casual friends. The lack of meaningful human interaction appears to be reflected in the fact that a large number of the men denied any feelings of loneliness.

CHAPTER XII

GOALS

The final section of the research questionnaire was concerned with the men's goals and their attitudes toward their way of life. Specific areas of concern included desire for jobs and homes, desire for help in attaining goals, areas of personal interests, and plans for the future.

Dissatisfaction with Present Way of Life

The men were first asked if they liked their present way of life (Table 89).

A great majority of the men (seventy-eight per cent) did not like their present way of life. Almost half of them indicated a strongly negative attitude in this regard. The largest number of negative attitudes were expressed by the men under 20 and the men in the 40-49 year age range. The most significant periods of disillusionment appear to occur shortly after the men reach 40 years of age as well as immediately upon their arrival on skid row. It seems probable, therefore, that these two age groups would be most receptive to the idea of participation in rehabilitation programs.

The men also very consistently expressed a desire for steady employment (Table 90).

Over fifteen per cent of the men stated that they did

TABLE 89

EXTENT TO WHICH THE MEN LIKE THEIR PRESENT
WAY OF LIFE

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Very much	7%	--	8%	7%	3%	9%	25%
Fairly well	15	--	15	25	3	23	--
Not very well	29	33	39	32	37	14	--
Not at all	49	67	39	36	57	55	75
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%

TABLE 90

PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO PLAN TO GET A STEADY JOB

[illegible]

not plan to get a steady job. Although their degree of motivation as well as their interpretation of "steady job" remains open to question, it seems clear that the men are not content with their present pattern of sporadic, short-term employment.

A majority of the men were able to name a specific location where they planned to work. Table 91 shows where the men plan to work.

The largest group (thirty-four per cent) planned to find a job in Edmonton. However, thirty-five per cent did not state a preference. These men stated that they: were willing to work anywhere, did not know where they planned to work or that the location depended on the job. Also, included in this total were the men who gave no answer. However, only four per cent stated that they planned to leave Alberta to obtain employment.

The men were also asked how soon they planned to get a steady job (Table 92).

More than one half of the men planning to get a steady job said they would start working as soon as possible. However, twenty per cent of the total group specified a period of time between one month and one year before they expected to start working. A number of these men indicated that they were waiting for certain types of seasonal jobs to become available. The expectation of a delay in obtaining employment was found to increase with the age of the men.

Over two thirds of the men (sixty-nine per cent)

TABLE 91
WHERE THE MEN PLAN TO WORK

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Edmonton	34%	33%	46%	29%	43%	23%	25%
Anywhere	17	33	--	21	20	18	--
No Answer or "do not know"	16	33	31	25	--	18	--
"North Country"	8	--	8	11	7	9	--
Elsewhere in Alberta	4	--	8	--	10	--	--
Elsewhere in Canada	3	--	--	4	7	--	--
"Depends on job"	2	--	8	4	--	--	--
Foreign country	1	--	--	--	3	--	--
Not applicable	15	--	--	7	10	32	75
Total	100%	99%	101%	101%	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 92
WHEN THE MEN PLAN TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
As soon as possible	45%	67%	54%	50%	53%	27%	--
1-3 months	13	--	15	18	13	9	--
3 months to 1 year	7	--	--	11	10	5	
Conditional	3	--	--	--	3	5	25
No answer or "do not know"	17	33	31	14	10	23	--
Not applicable	15	--	--	7	10	32	75
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	101%	100%

stated that they wanted a home of their own (Table 93).

However, it is noteworthy that twenty-seven per cent of the men did not consider this a desirable goal. No clear pattern of responses according to age was discernable although the greatest difference in attitude was found between the youngest and oldest men.

TABLE 93
NUMBER OF MEN WHO WANT A HOME OF THEIR OWN

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	69%	100%	62%	75%	67%	68%	50%
No	26	--	23	25	23	32	50
No answer	5	--	15	--	10	--	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Stated Goals and the Need for Help in Attaining Them.

An open ended question asking for the men's most important goals in life provided a wealth of interesting data concerning the men's conscious values. Their answers are summarized in Table 94.

The greatest number of goals were listed by the 40-49 year old men and secondly by the under 20 group. It was noted that these same groups had expressed the greatest dissatisfaction with their present way of life (Table 89). The total group listed an average of two goals each although ten per cent of the men stated no goals at all.

The most frequently expressed goals involved the desire for a home and family. The second most frequent goal was to obtain steady employment, although job satisfaction

TABLE 94

THE MEN'S MOST IMPORTANT GOALS IN LIFE

Total group			Age group					
	Total N=100	Sub total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Own home	64	30%	33%	15%	32%	40%	23%	25%
Marriage & family concerns		34	33	39	43	50	5	--
Steady employment	38	31	67	23	29	43	18	25
Being self employed		5	--	--	--	10	9	--
Job satis- faction		2	--	--	7	--	--	--
Settle down	20	15	--	31	11	17	14	--
Security		5	--	--	--	10	9	--
Money	16	11	33	8	4	10	23	--
Financial stability		5	--	--	4	10	5	--
Own busi- ness posses sions	13	6	--	--	4	10	5	25
Own posses- sions for pleasure		7	--	--	11	10	5	--
Health	12	--	--	15	--	17	5	100
Moral & ethical	10	--	--	8	7	20	5	--

TABLE 94 (Continued)

	Total group	Sub total	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Survival needs	7%	--	--	--	11%	7%	9%	--
Indepen- dence	5	--	--	8	--	10	5	--
Education	4	--	33	8	7	--	--	--
Recre- ation	4	--	--	--	4	7	5	--
Friends	3	--	33	--	4	--	5	--
Personal achieve- ment	2	--	--	8	--	3	--	--
Happiness	1	--	--	--	--	3	--	--
Average Number of goals	2.0	--	2.3	1.6	1.8	2.8	1.5	1.8
No goals stated	14%	--	33%	8%	18%	3%	27%	--

was very rarely mentioned. A general desire for stability and security was expressed by twenty per cent of the men. Financial income and stability were listed by sixteen per cent, although the desire for material possessions was indicated by only thirteen per cent. Twelve per cent were interested in gaining or maintaining good health and ten per cent expressed moral or ethical goals.

These figures suggest that the men tend to have

generally concrete although not particularly materialistic goals. Most of the goals stated are concerned primarily with human values, and only a small proportion of the stated goals expressed abstract ideals. The most significant conclusion to be drawn from these data appears to be that these men have goals and values which are very similar to those of the rest of society (except for their lack of emphasis on material success). This suggests that these men must be viewed, not as idealists or rebels against society but as individuals who have at least overtly subscribed to society's values but who have failed in attaining them.

This failure seems to be recognized by a majority of the men who agreed that they needed help in reaching their stated goals (Table 95). Approximately two thirds of the men admitted that they needed help in this regard.

A number of possible types of assistance were suggested to the men. Table 96 shows the percentage of the men who recognized their need for the various types of assistance.

Financial assistance was the most popular form of help suggested. However, at least thirty per cent of the entire sample expressed a need for education and counseling. Medical attention and support from friends were each mentioned by at least twenty per cent. Significantly, none of the men suggested any form of help required which did not appear on the questionnaire although the question

TABLE 95

PERCENTAGE OF MEN ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY
NEED HELP IN REACHING THESE GOALS

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	66%	100%	62%	57%	70%	68%	75%
No	32	--	39	39	30	27	25
No answer	2	--	--	4	--	5	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

contained a special designation of "other" (types of help needed). This may suggest that the men need to be presented specific assistance programs in order to become aware of their need for help and involved in meeting these needs.

The youngest age group expressed about twice as many needs for help as any other age group. In general the men under 40 years of age were most interested in education, counselling and support from friends, while the men of 40 years of age and over accounted for the largest number of requests for medical and financial assistance.

TABLE 96
TYPE OF HELP NEEDED

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
More education	32%	100%	46%	36%	23%	27%	--
Medical atten- tion	20	--	31	7	23	23	50
Financial assistance	35	67	15	32	30	50	50
Counselling	30	33	31	29	37	27	--
Support from friends	21	100	31	14	17	23	25
Average number of responses (for entire group)	1.38	3.0	1.54	1.18	1.30	1.50	1.25

Personal Interests of the Men

In an attempt to discover the personal interests of the men, they were asked about their hobbies. Tables 97 and 98 present the percentage of men who have hobbies and the nature of these hobbies.

Almost half the men stated that they participated in at least one hobby. Involvement in active sports was listed by one quarter of the total group. Sixteen per cent of the men mentioned a variety of handicrafts. Involvement

TABLE 97
PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO HAVE A HOBBY

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	47%	33%	31%	39%	60%	46%	75%
No	50	67	62	57	40	50	25
No answer	3	--	8	4	--	5	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%

in indoor games and musical pursuits accounted for an additional sixteen per cent. The men in their forties and sixties listed the greatest average number of hobbies.

In order to obtain a more general description of their interests, the men were asked to say what they enjoyed doing most (Table 99).

The most frequent answers were "work" and "sports". Social activities, drinking and entertainment were mentioned by a total of seventeen per cent of the men. Seven per cent enjoyed reading and only four per cent named some form of creative activity such as painting or playing a musical instrument.

The above table indicates that the men have a very limited range of interests and activities on which they

TABLE 98
TYPES OF HOBBIES LISTED

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Sports (active)	25%	33%	15%	25%	40%	14%	--
Handicrafts	16	--	--	14	23	23	
Games (indoors)	9	--	8	--	13	5	75
Music	7	--	15	7	10	--	--
Reading	1	--	--	--	--	5	--
Total*	58%	33%	39%	46%	87%	46%	75%

* Totals are greater than the percentage of men who have hobbies (Table 97) because several men listed more than one hobby.

rely for recreation and enjoyment. It is also suspected that a number of the hobbies and interests listed by the men represented past rather than current involvement.

Future Plans of the Men

The men were also asked about their future plans with regard to their residence in Edmonton (Table 100).

Sixty per cent of the men said that they plan to remain in Edmonton and thirty-four per cent planned to leave. The greatest percentage of men planning to leave were from

TABLE 99
WHAT THE MEN ENJOY DOING MOST

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Work	26%	67%	8%	25%	27%	23%	75%
Sports	25	33	15	32	27	18	25
Social activities	12	--	8	--	27	14	--
Drinking	10	--	8	11	3	23	--
Reading	7	--	15	7	10	--	--
Entertainment	5	--	15	4	--	9	--
Travel	5	--	--	7	10	--	--
Creative activities	4	--	8	--	--	9	25
Home life	4	--	--	7	3	--	25
Rural life	4	--	--	14	--	--	--
Other	5	--	--	--	3	9	50
No answer	12	--	23	14	10	9	--
Average number of responses	1.07	1.0	0.77	1.07	1.10	1.05	2.10

TABLE 100
PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO PLAN TO STAY IN EDMONTON

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Yes	60%	67%	62%	50%	70%	59%	50%
No	34	--	39	46	23	32	50
Do not know	6	33	--	4	7	9	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

the 60 and over, and the 30-39 year old groups.

However, when asked how soon they planned to leave, most of these men showed some reservation.

Table 101 shows that only four of the men were planning to leave as soon as possible. Of the thirty-four per cent who planned to leave (Table 100) over one half did not specify how soon they would leave. Twenty per cent of the men stated that they planned to remain in Edmonton for a period of up to three months or that their departure depended on some other circumstance. On the basis of these data, it is doubtful if a substantial number of the men were actually about to leave Edmonton in the near future.

The men's plans concerning their decision about staying in Edmonton were found to depend very heavily on their

TABLE 101

EXPECTED TIME OF DEPARTURE FOR THOSE WHO
PLAN TO LEAVE EDMONTON

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
As soon as possible	4%	--	15%	7%	--	--	--
Within 3 months	10	--	--	11	13	14	--
3 - 6 months	1	--	--	--	--	5	--
Conditional	11	--	--	25	7	--	50
Do not know	3	--	15	--	3	--	--
No answer	5	--	8	4	--	14	--
Total	34%	--	38%	47%	23%	33%	50%

prospects for employment (Table 102).

Sixty-eight of the men stated that their plans depended on the employment situation. Only the men over 60 years of age differed from the general trend. For these men the availability of pensions as a basis for financial stability and independence played a major role. Only one man from the total group indicated that continued permission to stay at the Single Men's Hostel would play a major role in his decision to remain in Edmonton.

The men were also asked to give some indication of the preciseness of their future plans (Table 103).

TABLE 102

FACTORS ON WHICH THE PLANS TO STAY OR LEAVE DEPEND

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Job	68%	100%	62%	89%	60%	59%	25%
On nothing	6	--	--	4	7	9	25
Personal factors	6	--	--	--	13	9	--
Educational opportunity	3	33	--	7	--	--	--
Financial assistance	2	--	--	4	3	--	--
Other circumstances	3	--	8	--	3	5	--
Permission to stay at the Hostel	1	--	--	--	--	5	--
No answer	6	--	23	--	10	--	--
Average number of responses	0.98	1.33	0.78	1.0+	0.86	0.87	1.0

Thirty-seven per cent of the men claimed at least a general plan for the future. Forty-four per cent indicated a general lack of planning and eighteen per cent frankly stated that they had no plans at all. At least eighty per cent of the men lacked definite, specific or clear plans for their future lives. This aimlessness and lack of purpose

TABLE 103
DEGREE OF PRECISENESS OF FUTURE PLANS

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Definite plans	19%	--	23%	21%	20%	18%	--
General plans	18	--	15	29	20	9	--
Uncertain plans	32	67	23	36	27	32	50
Vague plans	3	--	8	--	7	--	--
Confused plans	9	33	23	--	13	5	--
No plans	18	--	--	14	13	36	50
No answer	1	--	8	--	--	--	--
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

appear to be among the most crucial factors in understanding and assisting the transient man.

Reaction to the Questionnaire

The final question asked the men for their comments about the questionnaire (Table 104). The primary purpose for this was to provide some evaluation of the men's attitude toward the instrument and the interview setting in which it was completed. It was reasoned that strong extremes of attitude could affect the validity of the men's responses.

TABLE 104
COMMENTS ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

		Age group					
	Total group N=100	Under 20 N=3	20-29 N=13	30-39 N=28	40-49 N=30	50-59 N=22	60 & over N=4
Positive	66%	67%	62%	64%	77%	55%	75%
Negative	11	--	8	14	7	18	--
Non committal	11	--	8	11	3	23	25
Mixed	4	--	8	--	7	5	--
No comment	8	33	15	11	7	--	--
Total	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	101%	100%

The men showed a generally favourable attitude toward the questionnaire. Sixty-six per cent gave a positive response to the question. Twenty-three per cent could not be rated in either a positive or negative direction, and only eleven per cent were basically negative in their attitudes. It was concluded that the men's attitudes toward the questionnaire were such that the information given by them was honest, accurate and complete as could have been expected. The men are generally to be commended for their patience and cooperation in providing the data for this study.

Summary

The discussion of the transient men's goals has necessarily involved a consideration of their values and attitudes. The data show that these men are not happy with their present way of life. Most of the men stated that they want steady employment. However, they are less concerned about financial and material wealth than they are about obtaining homes, family involvement and various forms of stability. A majority of the men plan to stay in Edmonton.

It would seem that the men feel trapped by outward circumstances. The men tend to recognize that they need help in reaching their stated goals. However, their limited areas of personal interest and their inability to plan effectively may be viewed as two major obstacles in making effective use of the types of help presently available.

CHAPTER XIII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The data obtained in this study are summarized under the various topics included in the research questionnaire. In addition, the data for each of the six age groups which comprised the total sample are summarized and comparisons made among the various age groups. Conclusions based on these data are presented in a very brief form and a number of recommendations are made.

I. SUMMARY

Findings Arranged by Topics

Personal Information. It was found that the transient men tended to come from the majority groups in our society with regard to citizenship, racial origin and religious affiliations. In terms of age the men appeared to be representative of a wide cross section of the labour market. The sample approached a normal distribution in regard to age with a mean just under 42 years of age. Most of the men live in government-provided accommodation when in Edmonton. Almost all of them probably stay at the Single Men's Hostel at some time.

Health. The men were also characterized by a very high rate of ill health. This was particularly true of the men over 40 years of age. The types of health problems recognized by

the men included, in order of frequency; alcoholism, chronic illness, optical problems, possible mental illness and physical injuries. The very high incidence of alcoholism is of special significance with regard to rehabilitation planning.

The high rate of health problems appears to be related to the apparent lack of awareness on the part of the men concerning the need for medical attention. The extent of medical care obtained by these men appears to be highly inadequate. It must be noted that no comprehensive medical care is available in the skid row area to the men. This is particularly crucial in view of the men's apparent reluctance to make use of the health care programs and institutions in other parts of the city.

Finance. The financial condition of the men reveals the extent of their failure to succeed in our competitive society. The total average annual income of these men is well under \$2,000 and their average salaried income is only slightly above \$1,500. Most of the men had no money at the time of the study and apparently live in extreme poverty most of the time. The men indicated that they were unable to save or budget their money effectively. As a result they spend most of their money while working or very quickly after leaving a job. Significantly, the average amount spent on alcohol was greater than the amount spent on food and rent combined. Over one third of the men reported that they lacked some of the necessities of life. The most

frequently mentioned were clothes and medical attention. The fact that almost two thirds did not report any lack of necessities suggests that these men have become acculturated to the poverty in which they live.

Employment. At the time of the study all of the men interviewed were unemployed. However, most of them were actively looking for work. The men appear to rely most heavily on Canada Manpower, agencies providing casual day labour and on personal contacts, in that order, to find work. The special employment agencies existing on skid row to help transient men do not appear to have won the men's confidence as only a small percentage use these facilities.

Most of the transient men consider themselves to be employable but few have any vocational training. A substantial number of the men (one quarter) recognize that they are not capable of heavy work. Close to one third of the men are chronically unemployed. (That is, they held no regular jobs in the preceding year). At least one half of the men's employment appears to be rural. This suggests a major reason for their mobility.

The seasonal employment rate fluctuates widely for the transient men. The peak employment period in summer provides more than double the number of jobs in the low winter period. The average rate of employment is only thirty-eight per cent. The pattern of employment experienced by these men consists of a series of jobs averaging less than three months each. This early termination of employment is

due not only to the temporary nature of the jobs obtained but to dissatisfaction with specific jobs and because of personal problems. However, no major dissatisfaction was found with regard to the types of jobs available to the men. This suggests again a lack of long range planning on the part of the men. The men's apparent resignation to the existing employment pattern tended to increase with age.

Education. Although the men have a low average level of educational attainment (8.1 years) this does not appear to distinguish them from other unskilled men with a high rate of employment. Almost one half of these men would like further education but many were unable to specify what type of education they wanted. This may reflect a lack of knowledge about the kinds of education available as well as uncertainty about their own areas of interest and ability. Significantly, over one third of the men have at least a grade nine education and are therefore qualified for a variety of vocational education programs. It is also interesting to note that the largest proportion of these men were educated in Alberta. Most of the others received their schooling in the three provinces to the immediate east of Alberta - Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

Legal. A large majority of the men admitted to one or more major criminal convictions. The most common charge was drunkenness and the second largest number of convictions were for theft. Over one half of the men had served prison

terms, almost all for crimes other than drunkenness. The data suggest that although most of the men run afoul of the law at some time, only a relatively small group of hard core criminals exists among the transient men. A serious lack of legal representation was experienced by the men.

Mobility. An effort was made to determine the pattern of the transient men's mobility. It was found that a pattern does indeed exist. The men move, on an average, at least once every three months. Most of the changes of residence occur within the city of Edmonton. Much of their mobility is limited to Alberta. The movements outside Edmonton are largely dictated by their search for employment. As a result their mobility is seen to a great extent as revolving around Edmonton which serves as a "home base". This suggests that a large part of their unemployed periods are spent here, and that much of their employment is located outside this city. It is interesting that the availability of Welfare services was not considered by the men to have played a significant role in their decision to come to Edmonton.

It is clear that the traditional view of the transient man as a short term visitor just passing through is not valid. Over two thirds of the men have lived in Edmonton at least one year in the past three years and the average length of residence in Edmonton is over nine years. In addition, over one third of the men plan to settle down in Edmonton. Only twelve per cent indicated that they plan to

settle down elsewhere than in Alberta.

Several more general trends were discerned in the data concerning the men's mobility. None of the men appeared to have a permanent home in the usual sense of the word. Most came from essentially rural childhood homes. A major trend in the men's movement appears to be away from economically depressed areas of the country to more prosperous areas. Finally, it should be noted that in spite of their high mobility only slightly over one half of the men considered themselves to be transients.

Social. In terms of the social milieu of the transient men in Edmonton, the conclusions of the Chicago Study appear highly relevant.

.....any conception of skid row as a tightly knit, well integrated and organized community.....is a complete myth. Instead, skid row seems to be composed largely of discontented individuals who live in semi-isolation, who have few if any close friends, and who survive by being suspicious of everybody (The Homeless Man on Skid Row, 1961, p. 47).

The single most significant characteristic of these men appears to be their social alienation. Most of the men have never married. Of those who did marry, almost all are separated or divorced. Most of the men have no significant contact with relatives and very few have any significant involvement in organizations of any kind. The men have few close friends. Over one half of the men reacted strongly to the suggestion of loneliness; admitting that they are

frequently lonely, or denying any feeling of loneliness.

Goals. The tragedy of the men's alienation is emphasized by the fact that they subscribe to many of the common goals and values of society and keenly recognize their failure to attain them. Most of the men are decidedly unhappy with their present way of life. Their most commonly stated goals include: a home, steady employment, settling down, financial success, material possessions, health, and moral standards. However, the men clearly do not know how to attain these goals. They are characterized by indecision, lack of specific planning and lack of understanding of their problems. Their thinking tends to be at a very concrete level and their attention occupied with meeting basic needs. Their range of personal interests is very limited. Most of the men recognize that they require help but none of them were able to specify the kind of help required beyond the limited number of suggestions offered to them. It is not surprising, therefore, that these men do not seek out more help or that they feel rejected by a society which is willing only to help those who help themselves.

Discussion by Age Group

In order to provide a more comprehensive picture of the transient men in this study, the data are reviewed in regard to its implications for differences between the various age groups. Because of the unstratified sampling procedure used, the youngest and oldest age groups

contained a rather small number of men. Consequently, the reliability of the data for these groups must be regarded with reservation.

Under 20. The fact that only three per cent of the sample were under 20 years of age emphasizes that the men in this study represent an essentially different part of society than does the mobile, so-called "hippie" youth cult. The teenage transients gave a number of indications of their neophyte status. They were the **healthiest** and the most active in looking for work. However, they were also the loneliest, disliking their way of life the most and expressed the greatest desire for help. They had a low rate of employment, no trade, and no money to spend on the necessities of life. In general, they gave the impression that they had received a rude shock on entering skid row and hoped to leave as soon as possible.

20 - 29. The 20-29 year old group were characterized by negative attitudes and personal problems. In many respects they resembled the older men more than they resembled the under-20 or the 30-39 year old groups. These men were the least religious, the most concerned with their health, obtained the best optical care and had a high rate of hospital admissions. They also spent the largest percentage of their salary on alcohol and had a high rate of convictions for drunkenness. They had no trade and little vocational training but quit jobs voluntarily and were fired more often

than the others.

This group also appeared to be relatively intelligent as they obtained the highest educational level in proportion to the number of years spent in school. They also had the greatest degree of mobility outside Edmonton and listed a large number of goals. This suggests that this group, in spite of its intelligence, idealism, and ambition, has very limited success because of personal problems and lack of practicality.

30 - 39. The men in their thirties were clearly the most successful among the transient group. Their adaptability to the transient way of life may be related to the fact that they had the lowest educational level in relation to the years spent in school. This group had the most money, the highest rate of employment, the greatest average number of jobs, the most friends and visited a doctor least often. They had the highest total average income and consequently spent the most money, especially on "luxury" items. They also depended more exclusively on salaries for their income than did the other groups. However, they also had the highest rate of convictions for major thefts (over \$50) and a high rate of prison records. They tended to have little involvement in organizations. Most of the children acknowledged by the transient men were apparently born while their fathers were in this age range. This group also had the largest number of men coming to Edmonton from outside Alberta and a relatively high percentage planning to leave Edmonton.

40 - 49. The 40-49 year old group represented a turning point in the career of the transient man. It appears that after the age of 40 the transient man enters a period of accelerating decline. At this point the men become aware of an increasing number of unmet basic needs. They stop exploring new jobs and rely on past experience more heavily. A decline in their employment rate begins and the length of residence in Edmonton reaches a plateau. Their general mobility begins to decline sharply although they have the highest rate of mobility inside the city. They begin to emphasize the need for medical and financial assistance rather than for education and counselling. This group is characterized by a very low educational level but has the highest percentage of men with a trade.

It would appear that as their employability begins to decline the men become acutely aware of the increasing gravity of their problems. This group most readily recognized that they were transient. They strongly disliked their way of life and listed the greatest number of goals. They were also the most religious, had the highest number owing money, were the second most active in looking for work and had the highest rate of chronic theft. They also responded most positively to the research interview, possibly because it indicated interest in them and because they saw it as a source of help.

50 - 59. The men in their fifties did not differ in many respects from the overall sample. However, they showed an accelerating decline in health accompanied by the most severe lack of medical attention. This group had the highest level of income from pensions and as a result had more money than most of the other groups. Most of the men in this group had served in the armed forces during the Second World War. They also listed the greatest number of memberships in various organizations. In general this age group appeared fairly well adjusted, or resigned, to their way of life. Health and employability are poor but the men have some degree of financial stability at a bare subsistence level.

60 and Over. The oldest group of men, age 60 and over, comprised a relatively small sample (four per cent) and generally showed the expected accumulated results of their transient way of life. They had the largest proportion of unmet basic needs, the lowest educational level, the highest rate of convictions for drunkenness and had spent the most time in prison. They had no steady employment in the previous year, listed no memberships in organizations and had the highest tendency to deny feelings of loneliness. Interestingly, one half of these men stated that they plan to leave Edmonton as soon as they are eligible for the old age security pension.

Characteristics of Increasing Age. In conclusion, several general trends were found to correlate with increasing age among these men. As the men get older they tend to rely less heavily on the Hostel for accommodation. Their health declines and "non-essential" medical care (especially dental care) is increasingly neglected but the number of hospital admissions increases. The number of chronically unemployed men surprisingly decreases and the educational level declines. The number of men having never married declines, suggesting a constant addition to the transient population of men who's marriages have been dissolved. Significantly, the number of men planning to settle down decreases as they become older.

II. CONCLUSIONS

Extent of the Problem

The transient men in Edmonton's Skid Row area constitute a severe, ongoing, social problem. Some indication of the size of the problem is given by the fact that the Single Men's Hostel alone provides services to approximately 6,000 men per year at an expense of over \$424,000 (O'Byrne, 1970, pp. 3, 4). A large number of other governmental and charitable agencies provide some additional degree of service to these men at an undetermined cost.

Another major cost is in wasted income potential. A rough calculation on the basis of 6,000 men with an employment rate of 38% places the cost of these transient men's lack of

employment, in terms of unearned potential, at close to fifteen million dollars per year. It seems probable that additional costs would be found if the men's former families were to be assessed in terms of dependency on society due to the loss of a wage earner.

However, the real cost of the neglect of these men is to be found in the human waste and suffering which result. Unfortunately, the services being provided consist almost entirely of meeting the most essential of basic needs and have little apparent success in solving the existing problems.

Need for Further Research

This study has concerned itself primarily with a description of the transient men and the nature of the problems they experience. Within these limits a substantial amount of information has been obtained. However, further research is clearly required in the following areas: seasonal differences in the transient population, correlation of various characteristics of the transient men - e.g. alcoholism and rate of employment, attitudes and motivation of the men, and relationship between the transient men and the remainder of the skid row population. It should be noted that the categorization of part of the skid row population under the heading of "transient men" is somewhat arbitrary and that the concept of an "average" transient man has very limited value.

Nature of Transient Men's Problems

It seems evident that the transient men are the victims of a number of problems. These men do not represent particular ethnic or religious subgroups in our society. Instead, they are characterized by poverty, ill health, unemployment, social alienation, lack of purposeful planning and an apparent lack of human rights and dignity. It must be concluded that the multiplicity of problems can be solved only by comprehensive programs equipped to deal with a great variety of debilitating factors.

Desire and Need for Help

The data presented in this study indicate that the transient men are unhappy with their present way of life and want help in order to change. It is also clear that many of them are unable to change their way of life if adequate help is not provided to them. The men appear to be very limited in their ability to use the resources available to the rest of society. Therefore, a major emphasis should be placed on providing employment, health care, social interaction, educational opportunities and meaningful contact with social and governmental agencies. In this regard it should be noted that the men appear to be quite active in looking for work and many appear willing to accept counselling, educational opportunities and other forms of help. This suggests that provision of rehabilitation programs would meet with the approval and cooperation of a

substantial number of these men.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The broad scope and descriptive nature of this study imply that the study provides only a general understanding of Edmonton's transient men. Therefore, it cannot serve as the basis for a total, detailed rehabilitation program. However, a number of general proposals can be put forward. These recommendations are based on the data presented in this study but reflect also the general impressions gained from contact with the transient men and with the agencies providing services to them.

The plight of the transient man has been perpetuated in the past by the refusal of society, through its governments and private agencies, to accept responsibility for the basic needs of these men except, to a limited degree, for their physical needs. The data from this study demonstrates that even by virtue only of their residence in Edmonton and in Alberta the great majority of these men are the responsibility of municipal and provincial governments. It is imperative that all three levels of government accept their responsibility to these men. The recommendations presented here are consistent with the purpose of the Federal and Provincial Bills of Right and are intended to provide a practical means of translating these goals into action.

Basic Principles

In order for any plan of action to succeed in rehabilitating these men, two basic principles must be recognized. First, the multiplicity of these men's problems demand that a comprehensive program be initiated. A limited, piecemeal approach to the problems will prove not only futile but more costly as well. The old adage about the chain with a weak link is participlarly apropos to a program of rehabilitation.

Secondly, the fact that presently existing services have not been successful in rehabilitating these men makes it obvious that a different basic approach is needed to make the process of rehabilitation relevant to the men concerned. It is interesting to note that almost all of the theoretical emphasis in the past has been directed toward re-integrating these men into "our" society. It seems strange that so little emphasis has been placed on helping these men to create their own society and toward making the more positive aspects of our society as relevant as possible to them. It would seem that we regard poverty, mobility and illness as a greater "crime" than middle class prejudice and bigotry which discredits any life style other than its own. Our welfare programs are just beginning to approach the concept of "helping those who help themselves", but when faced with those who need help in order to learn how to help themselves we abdicate our responsibility.

Assessment and Referral Centre

Within the context of the above principles, several more specific recommendations may be proposed. The need for more information is basic to any program of the scope envisioned. More information is needed about the actual number of transient men in Edmonton, the costs to the community of allowing the problems to continue, the cost of adequate rehabilitative services, the correlation between various characteristics of the men and their attitudes, needs, and potentiality. In order to obtain the needed information, it is recommended that an "Assessment and Referral Centre" (ARC) be established, at the Single Men's Hostel. The first function of such a centre would be to obtain a wide range of pertinent information from all the men using the Hostel. This data would provide a basis for much more comprehensive research than is presently available. In addition, the assessment, including a routine medical examination, would enable the staff to determine the nature and extent of assistance required by the individual.

Complete statistical information should be gathered by all other agencies and programs involved in providing services to the transient men. The men should be identified (possibly by simply using their social security number) so the various agencies could coordinate their efforts rather than singly providing an isolated service in a vacuum. Computerization of this data would make it readily accessible

to the various agencies and would permit regular, detailed analysis of the information. The gathering and processing of this information would comprise a central, research oriented function of the A. R. C. Safeguards against the invasion of the men's privacy would be required. However, it should be noted that such a program need not deny the men any more privacy than the rest of our society has relinquished.

Research in depth is also required to assist in developing effective rehabilitation programs. Psychological attributes of the men, means of dealing with alcoholism and drug addiction, health problems and the ageing process in transient men are some of the areas requiring further study.

Coordination of Agencies

The discussion of needs for information points to the need for coordination of services and information. The gathering of complete information should not be considered a prerequisite to the institution of active programs. Ample information is already available to provide an adequate basis for the introduction of effective and far-reaching programs. Only as this information is acted upon can more relevant data be generated.

It is recommended therefore, that all agencies providing service to these men should be placed under the direction of a coordinating body in order to establish a commonality of purpose that would make each agency a specific

part of the comprehensive rehabilitation program. Duplication of service should be eliminated and information pooled to prevent the transient man from "beating the system" to his own detriment. This coordination of services would provide an opportunity for the men to become meaningfully involved in self-help programs as one agency could provide the support needed for him to contribute positively in another.

Specific Programs

This suggests a second major function of the proposed Assessment and Referral Centre, namely that of referring the men to an appropriate combination of rehabilitative services to ensure that all of his basically debilitating problems are receiving attention.

Health. A basic need of the transient men is for drastic upgrading of medical care provided to them. The men's eligibility for Medicare should be established and this right exercised. In addition to routine check-ups at the Assessment and Referral Centre and the presently available emergency and first aid services, an intensive health education program should be established, possibly utilizing the Student Health Involvement Project. Close liaison should be established between the referring agency and one of the city hospitals. If necessary, a special program should be established within the hospital to deal with the

chronic health problems of these men.

Alcoholism. A large problem in crucial need of attention is the high rate of alcoholism among these men. The problem demands a comprehensive treatment approach dealing with the illness itself as well as close coordination with all other services to deal with the attendant social problems. Justice O'Byrne (1970) outlines a suggested treatment program and points out that the institution of an effective program is economically sound (pp. 12 - 14). He also emphasizes the need for accessibility and relevance of the program to the men it is designed to reach.

Day Counselling services are available at (103 Street)-----
However, I sense that psychologically it is a long way from Boyle Street to 103 Street (O'Byrne, 1970, p. 13).

A more detailed plan has been outlined by A. Charles, Division of Alcoholism and is recommended for consideration (undated).

Employment. The lack of employment constitutes the transient man's most obvious problem. Several recommendations are offered to deal directly with this problem although it is recognized that unemployment may at times be a "symptom" rather than a "disease". First of all, an efficient referral agency, specializing in the employment needs of the transient man, should be established. Secondly, vocational programs should be made available to the men and, if necessary, modified to meet their needs. A program should be

instituted subsidizing employers willing to provide on-the-job training to unskilled men. Government and private enterprise should be encouraged by the coordinating body to generate employment. This could be done by expanding programs, substituting men for machines where possible, or by encouraging business ventures by the men themselves, such as the Co-op Club sponsored by the Marion Centre.

The large number of chronically unemployed and men of limited employability suggest the need for a sheltered workshop. The proposed facility would hopefully be under the direction of a board of competent businessmen and would operate on a business-like basis. Although some subsidy from the government would probably be required, the amount of income generated and the therapeutic effect of steady work would make the project a valuable part of the total program. Not only would such a facility ensure the men their right to work in spite of limited capability but it would also provide needed training in specific job skills and more general attitudes and responsibilities required of an employee. However, the provision of productive employment should be emphasized as the primary goal.

Social Needs. The basic problem of alienation must be dealt with in a number of ways. The total rehabilitation program must depend heavily on group involvement. To this end it is recommended that men in the program be encouraged to live in communal (small group) housing situations. These should be as stable as possible and located in rural areas

as well as in the city of Edmonton. The following example suggests the economic practicality of this scheme. At the present rate of \$1.50 per day, six men can be housed (in sub-standard accommodation) for one month for \$270. This amount would more than cover the rent for a house large enough for six men. The establishment of such cooperative group units would provide an effective means of socialization. In addition, intensive therapy, involvement of the community - perhaps in some form of "big brother" programs, and involvement of the churches in meeting the men's interpersonal and religious needs would combine to help these men in making meaningful contact with each other and in learning to co-operate in meeting their common needs.

Legal. A final set of recommendations deals with the men's involvement with the legal system. Legal aid should be actively offered to the men especially when they face an indictable offence. The men's legal status and entitlements, especially with regard to residence requirements for social services should be clarified and enforced. Those men who are unable to benefit from the rehabilitation program should be provided with the same level of assistance as other disabled groups enjoy. Finally, the judicial system should be an integral part of the total cooperative program. This would require a strong emphasis on rehabilitation rather than punishment. Until the transient men are recognized as unfortunate, unable and unhappy rather than lazy, disgusting

and worthless we will continue to punish and oppress rather than extend a helping hand.

The above proposals represent only the most essential and obviously needed components of an effective rehabilitation program. They represent nothing more than a concrete effort to provide to the transient man in a hopefully relevant way the most essential services required by them to regain hope and dignity. That these proposals appear to involve major sweeping changes in government and welfare policies emphasizes the lack of services presently being provided. However, the proposed involvement of a large number of existing agencies and programs in this plan could certainly make the task possible and practical. The Provincial Government's Request for Proposals system provides adequate machinery for putting the plan into effect. Until the rest of society accepts its responsibilities the transient man will continue to wait in hopelessness and isolation.

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APPENDIX A
RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

PERSONAL I. D.

What is your age?

Where are you living? Check one of the following:

Single men's hostel

Colona rooms

Abner House

Salvation Army Hostel

Own hotel room

Suite or apartment

Private rented room

with friends

with relations

Of what country are you a citizen?

What is your racial origin?

Are you a church member? Yes No

If yes, what church?
(check one of the
following)

Roman Catholic

Anglican

United

Baptist

Other

(please name here)

Do you attend church

Check one

once a week or more

once a month or more

once in a while

special occasions
only,

never

How important is religion to you? Check one

very important

fairly important

not very important

not important at all

Health

How is your health? Good _____ Fair _____ Poor _____

Do you have any disabilities? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please specify: - amputation:
 finger _____, hand _____, arm _____, foot _____, leg _____
 injury _____, bad nerves _____
 (what?) _____
 chronic illness _____, T. B. _____
 (what?) _____

rheumatism _____, deafness _____
 poor vision _____, hernia _____
 ulcers _____, asthma _____
 alcoholism _____, paralysis _____
 other _____
 (what?) _____

Do you have trouble with your heart _____ stomach _____
 lungs _____ eyes _____
 ears _____ bladder _____
 bowels _____

Do you need medical attention now? _____ For what? _____

Are you taking any medication? Yes _____ No _____ For what? _____

When did you last see a doctor? _____
 month _____ year _____

a dentist? _____
 month _____ year _____

an eye specialist? _____
 month _____ year _____

How many times have you been in the hospital in the past five years? _____

What reason? _____

FINANCE

How much money do you have? _____
(to the nearest dollar)

b. From what source did you get it?

Salary _____, Sale of Property _____, borrowed _____
gift _____, other _____.

How much money do you owe? _____
(to the nearest dollar)

How much did you earn in the past 12 months? _____

Do you have a regular income now? Yes _____, No _____
How much per month? _____.

If yes, is this income from: salary _____,
unemployment insurance _____,
workmen's compensation _____,
social assistance _____,
pension _____,
other _____.

How much ^{do} ~~do~~ you spend in an average month on:
Rent _____, clothes _____,
tobacco _____, alcohol _____,
entertainment _____,
transportation _____,
other _____.

Do you lack any necessities of life that you can not afford? _____, _____
yes no

If yes - what do you need? _____

Item

Value

What do you own? Please list: _____,
_____,
_____.

Are you working now? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, is your job permanent _____, full time _____
temporary _____, part time _____

How much are you earning per hour? _____
per month? _____

Are you looking for work? yes _____, no _____

If yes, where have you applied - Canada Manpower _____
- Marion Centre Co-op _____
- Bissell Institute _____
- Manpower Services _____
- Industrial Overload _____
- Private companies in Edmonton _____
- Private companies for up North _____
- other _____
(where)

What kind of work can you do? - labor - light work _____
- labor-heavy work _____
- skilled - _____, what kind _____
- trade (with papers) _____

What kinds of work have you done in the past? Please list below:

What jobs have you had in the past year? Please list

b. On the scale below mark every week during which you were employed during 1969?

Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec.

What kind of work would you like to do? _____

How long did you work in the last 12 months? _____
months weeks

Have you had any special vocational training? Yes _____, No _____, in what _____

What was your last regular job? _____

Why did you leave your last job? Check one of the following:

Quit (give reason) _____

Fired _____

Education

What was the last grade you completed in school? _____.

Where was this? _____.
(town) (province)

At what age did you leave school? _____.

Why did you leave? _____.

Did you take any vocational or trade training? Yes _____, No _____.

If yes, in what subject? _____.

What school _____, place _____.

Would you like to get more education? Yes _____, No _____.

If yes, in what area? _____.

Legal

Have you ever been convicted of an offence? Yes _____, No _____.

If yes, what was the charge:	how often in your life?	how often in past 12 months.
Theft under \$50.00	_____.	_____.
Theft over \$50.00	_____.	_____.
Breaking and entry,	_____.	_____.
Assault	_____.	_____.
Drunkenness,	_____.	_____.
Drunkennes	_____.	_____.
Other	_____.	_____.

How much time have you served? _____, where? _____.

Were you represented by a lawyer? Yes _____, No _____.

MOBILITY

How long have you been living in Edmonton? Years _____, Months _____

When did you last come to Edmonton? _____

Where did you come from? _____

give date

City

Province

How much time did you spend in the past 12 months: (check one)

In Edmonton

In Alberta

8 - 30 days

8 - 30 days

1 - 3 mos.

1 - 3 mos,

4 - 6 mos,

4 - 6 mos,

7 - 9 mos,

7 - 9 mos,

10 - 12 mos,

10 - 12 mos.

How much time did you spend in the past 3 years: (check one)

In Edmonton

In Alberta

1 month

1 month

2 - 3 months

2 - 3 months

3 - 6 months

3 - 6 months

7 - 12 months

7 - 12 months

1 - 2 years

1 - 2 years.

Why did you come to Edmonton?

Check right answer

heard of a job _____

had relatives here _____

welfare agencies available _____

lost job up North _____

consider Edmonton my home _____

wanted to see this city _____

other _____

state reason

Do you have a permanent home? Yes _____, No _____, if yes, where? _____

City _____, Province, _____

No, when did you last have a permanent home: Year _____, Month _____

Where did you live the longest? City _____, Province _____

How long? Years _____, Months _____

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MOBILITY CONT'D

Where were you born? _____

city

province

Where were you raised? Check one

farm _____

bush country _____

city _____

other _____

Do you consider yourself a transient man? Yes _____, No _____

If yes, how long have you been transient? _____

Do you plan to settle down someday? _____

yes

no

When? _____

Where? _____

List the places you have lived in the past 12 months.

<u>Name of place</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>How long (months)</u>	<u>(weeks)</u>
Andy Rest Hotel	1184-22 Ave	Main Centre	Alta.	2	3

(Example)

Have you ever served in the Armed Forces? Yes _____, No _____

If yes, give date entered _____, date left _____

What was your rank when you left the armed forces? _____

What special training did you receive? _____

SOCIAL

Are you married _____ Single _____ Separated _____

Divorced _____ Widowed _____

Do you have any children? Yes _____, No _____

If yes, how many? _____

Who is looking after them _____,

Where are they _____.

Do you know of any other living relations? Yes _____, No _____

If yes, how often do you get in touch with them? check:

daily _____

weekly _____

monthly _____

yearly _____

less than once a year _____

never _____

List any clubs or organizations of which you are a member:

_____, _____,

If none check here _____.

How many casual friends do you have? _____

How many close friends do you have? _____

How many close friends are in Edmonton? _____

Could you describe yourself as feeling lonely: (Check One of the Following)

always? _____

often? _____

sometimes? _____

seldom _____

never _____.

not at all

When _____

4.

support from friends , other

What do you enjoy doing most?

If no, when do you plan to leave?

On what do these plans depend:

vague , confused no plans

Page 10 of 10

Very truly yours, (1890) (1891) (1892) (1893) (1894) (1895) (1896) (1897) (1898) (1899) (1900)

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours,

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Very truly yours,

Very truly yours,

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Very truly yours, (1890) (1891) (1892) (1893) (1894) (1895) (1896) (1897) (1898) (1899) (1900)

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Very truly yours,

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APPENDIX B
COMPARISON OF RESEARCH SAMPLE WITH A
SECOND SAMPLE

APPENDIX B

COMPARISON OF RESEARCH SAMPLE WITH A SECOND SAMPLE

In order to provide some means of evaluating how representative the research sample was of the transient men in Edmonton, a second study was conducted at the Edmonton Day Centre. A brief questionnaire was administered to 100 men at the Centre on April 19, 1970, a Sunday morning. The questionnaire was given to the first 100 men entering the Day Centre who were not members or who had not renewed their membership in the past year. Therefore, none of the men in the research study were included here but a much higher percentage of men were included who seldom frequent the Day Centre on week days.

The following comparison of some of the findings from the two studies revealed a number of interesting similarities and differences.

	<u>Research Sample</u>	<u>Second Sample</u>
Average age	41.7 years	40.2 years
Median age	42 years	41.8 years
Average education (by grade)	8.1	8.5
Presently employed men	0	2%
Average length of employment		
in past year	4.6 months	5.2 months
Number claiming special		
vocational training	20%	18%

	<u>Research Sample</u>	<u>Second Sample</u>
Number claiming service		
in Armed Forces	42%	27%
Number in government-provided		
accommodation	66%	89%
Number in own private		
accommodation	28%	3%
Single men	60%	72%
Number having experienced		
marital breakdown	39%	19%
Average length of residence		
in Edmonton	9.4 years	4.6 years (*approximately)

* Lack of precision is due to lack of data - however, this figure is very close to the median figure for length of stay as well.

These figures suggest that the research sample is fairly representative of the general transient population in terms of age, education, vocational training and present status as "unemployed". However, it would appear that the research sample contains a disproportionately high number of men who have been married at some time and of men who are living in private accommodation. This suggests that the "average" transient man may be somewhat more mobile and less socially stable than are the men in the research sample. The higher degree of mobility in the second sample may account for the slightly higher rate of employment indicated. However, the lower number of armed forces

veterans in the second study may suggest a higher incidence of physical, mental and social problems in this group, in view of the fact that a substantial number of men in both samples were of draft age during the World War II draft. This is also borne out by the higher rate of dependence on government-provided accommodation and the lower rate of marital involvement in the second sample.

In general, these figures suggest that the research sample contains a fairly wide cross section of transient men. In evaluating the data presented, however, it should be noted that the sample was not apparently restricted to the most highly mobile group of transient men.

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